

TOY STORY

THE MAN WHO MADE THE FALCON!



LIGHT VS DARK

LUKE SKYWALKER TAKES ON THE SECRET APPRENTICE



GOING SOLO!

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO HAN'S EARLY YEARS

STAR WARS

INSIDER



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Take a Look Back
at the *Star Wars*
Holiday Special

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THE EMPIRE
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Comes of Age!

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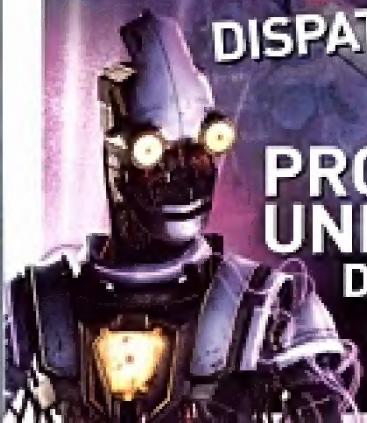
FRONTLINE

DISPATCHES FROM STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS

ISSUE #106
January 2009 \$5.99

PROXY UNLEASHED!

David Collins
on Voicing the
Deadly Droid!



BLASTER!

Books, Toys, Collecting,
Classic Scene, Comics,
Ask Lobot, Bantha Tracks,
and much, much more!

DOCKING BAY

THIS ISSUE....

"WHY DO I ALWAYS THINK GETTIN' YOU HOME FOR LIFE DAY IS GONNA BE EASY?"

—HAN SOLO

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THE SPECIAL EDITION!

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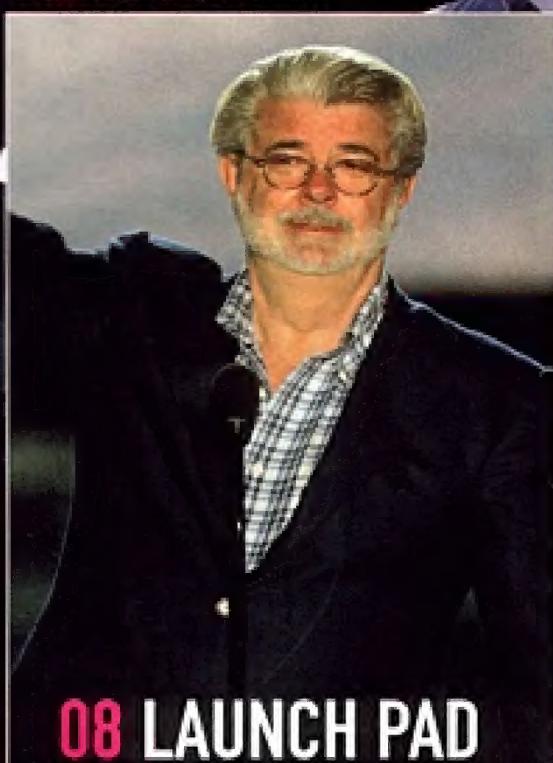
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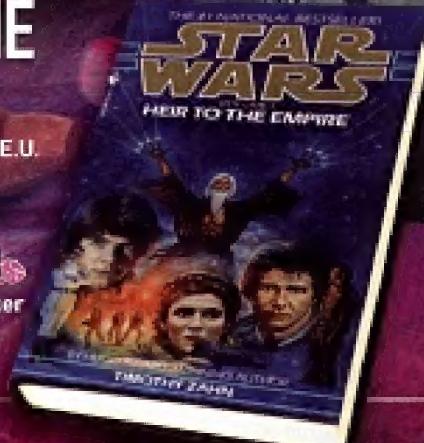
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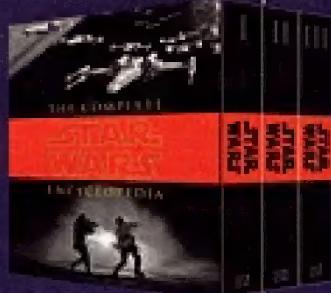


BLASTER

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72 BANTHA TRACKS

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76 CLASSIC MOMENT

He seems friendly enough, but is Boba Fett to be trusted? Meet him for the first time here!



EDITOR'S WELCOME

"They were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Naturally they became heroes."

— Princess Leia Organa, *Star Wars* novelization, introduction

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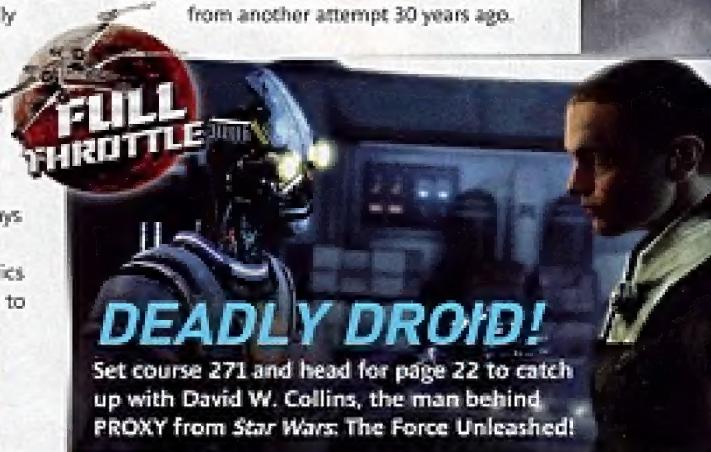
From the noble Jedi to the primitive Ewoks, heroes in the *Star Wars* saga come in all shapes and sizes. It's a galaxy where anybody can be a hero, from the lowly farm boy who dreams of what his destiny might be, to the small but determined astromech droid who exceeds his programming to save the day more often than even his un wiped memory chips can remember. And anybody can be a villain — just ask Anakin!

None of *Star Wars* good guys are as surprising as Han Solo. Cynical and almost unbearably arrogant, he's one of the most reluctant heroes of them all. He's the kind of character who belongs in the less civilized age of the Empire, where morals are ambiguous and trust is less commonplace. Check out his back-story on page 36, as we look at how his early days shaped his journey from rogue to Rebel.

There's no doubt the heroics of the Jedi as they continue to

fight the dastardly Separatists every week in the thrilling *Clone Wars* TV series! It's been an epic season so far and, as part one of our episode guide confirms, a testament to the diverse stories that can be told within the framework of the seemingly limitless *Star Wars* saga. Everyone has their favorite episodes and it would be great to hear your views on the show! Write in to the usual address (see panel, left).

The Clone Wars is a very different approach to putting *Star Wars* on the small screen from another attempt 30 years ago.



Set course 271 and head for page 22 to catch up with David W. Collins, the man behind PROXY from *Star Wars: The Force Unleashed*!

Those with long memories may still remember the ill-fated *Star Wars Holiday Special* that left audiences speechless in 1978! In many ways darker than the bleakest moments of *Revenge of the Sith* (albeit for rather different reasons), it brought viewers in close contact with Chewie's crazy, yet strangely charming, family, the musical denizens of the cantina led by a bemused Bea Arthur and lest we forget, Jefferson Starship! What were they thinking? Turn to page 28 to find out the astonishing truth!

May the Force be with you all,

Jonathan Wilkins, Editor



LAUNCH

ALL THE LATEST NEWS, FUN, GAMES AND GOSSIP FROM THE STAR WARS UNIVERSE

BLOCKBUSTER!

27 MILLION ENLIST IN THE CLONE WARS!

Star Wars: The Clone Wars broke records with its premiere episode, "Ambush," which aired in the U.S. on the Cartoon Network on October 3. The popularity of the show was confirmed when it was announced that a cumulative total of more than 27 million people watched the first three episodes of the series.

As well as tuning into Cartoon Network each Friday at 9pm, fans have flocked to StarWars.com and CartoonNetwork.com to watch episodes as streaming video, and to the [iTunes](http://iTunes.com) store, where episodes are available for \$1.99 each.

International launches of the series are rolling out in dozens of countries through 2009. ♦



PAD

GEORGE LUCAS ACCEPTS AWARD!

GEORGE LUCAS HONORED AS MACE WINDU JOINS THE 501ST!



Courtesy Spike TV; photos by Jason Merritt, Film Magic

George Lucas was the surprise recipient of the Comic-Con Icon Award during the Spike Scream Awards on October 18 at the Greek Theatre in Hollywood. He received a rousing standing ovation from the thousands of genre fans gathered in the outdoor amphitheater.

The award was presented by Samuel L. Jackson, known and loved by fans for his performance as Jedi Master Mace Windu in the prequel trilogy.

Lucas thanked Comic-Con, which takes place every summer in San Diego, California, for providing a place for fans of many genres to come together.

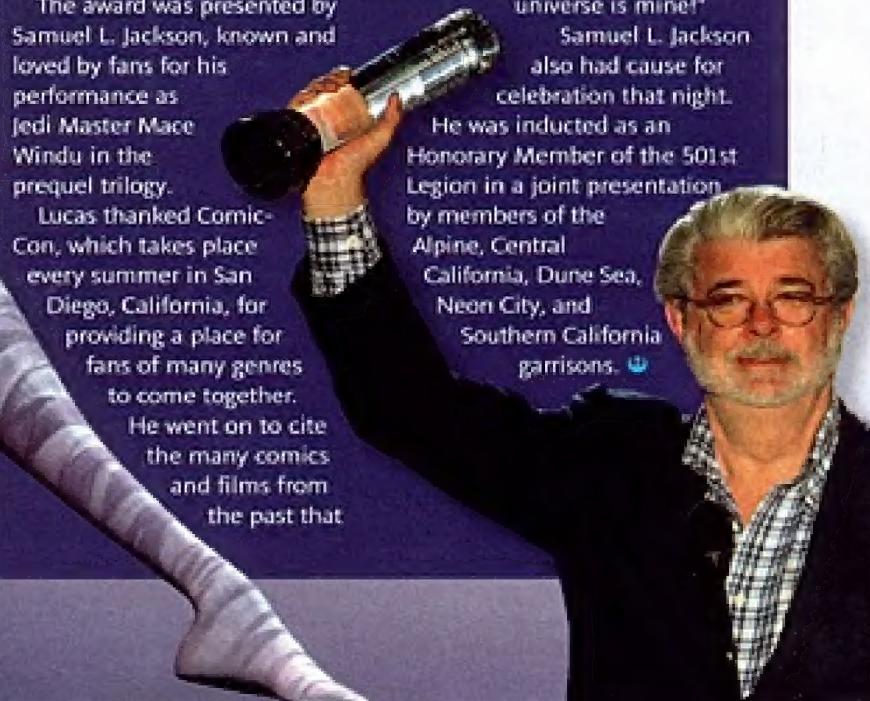
He went on to cite the many comics and films from the past that

inspired him to create Star Wars including classic serials *Flash Gordon* and *Commander Cody: Sky Marshal of the Universe*.

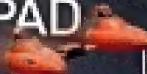
Lucas said Star Wars has been appearing at Comic-Con for over 30 years—making the tribute even more fitting—before holding the statue high above his head and exclaiming with a smile, “The universe is mine!”

Samuel L. Jackson also had cause for celebration that night.

He was inducted as an Honorary Member of the 501st Legion in a joint presentation by members of the Alpine, Central California, Dune Sea, Neon City, and Southern California garrisons.



STAR
THE
CLONE WARS
WARS



NEW GAME, OLD REPUBLIC

LucasArts and BioWare have announced the development of *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, a story-driven massively multiplayer online PC game set in the timeframe of the *Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic*.

In *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, players will explore an age thousands of years before the rise of Darth Vader when war between the Old Republic and the Sith

Empire divides the galaxy. Players can choose to play as Jedi, Sith, or a variety of other classic

Star Wars roles, defining their personal stories and determining their paths down the light or dark side of the Force.

"*Star Wars: Knights of the Old Republic* is the most critically acclaimed *Star Wars* game in LucasArts history and a pre-eminent example of our company's interactive storytelling heritage," said Darrell Rodriguez, President of LucasArts. "For a long time, we've long wanted to return to the series in a grand way, and we felt that the best setting for it was an online world that would allow millions of people to participate in the experience together. We knew that the developer capable of working with us to deliver an engrossing story with a fully-realized online world was BioWare."

"Traditionally, massively multiplayer online games have been about three basic gameplay pillars—combat, exploration, and character progression," said Dr. Ray Muzyka, Co-Founder and General Manager/CEO of BioWare and

General Manager/Vice President of Electronic Arts Inc. "In *Star Wars: The Old Republic*, we're fusing BioWare's heritage of critically-acclaimed storytelling with the amazing pedigree of Lucasfilm and LucasArts, and adding a brand-new fourth pillar to the equation—story. At the same time, we will still deliver all the fun features and activities that fans have come to expect in a massively multiplayer online game. To top it all off, *Star Wars: The Old Republic* is set in a very exciting, dynamic period in the *Star Wars* universe."

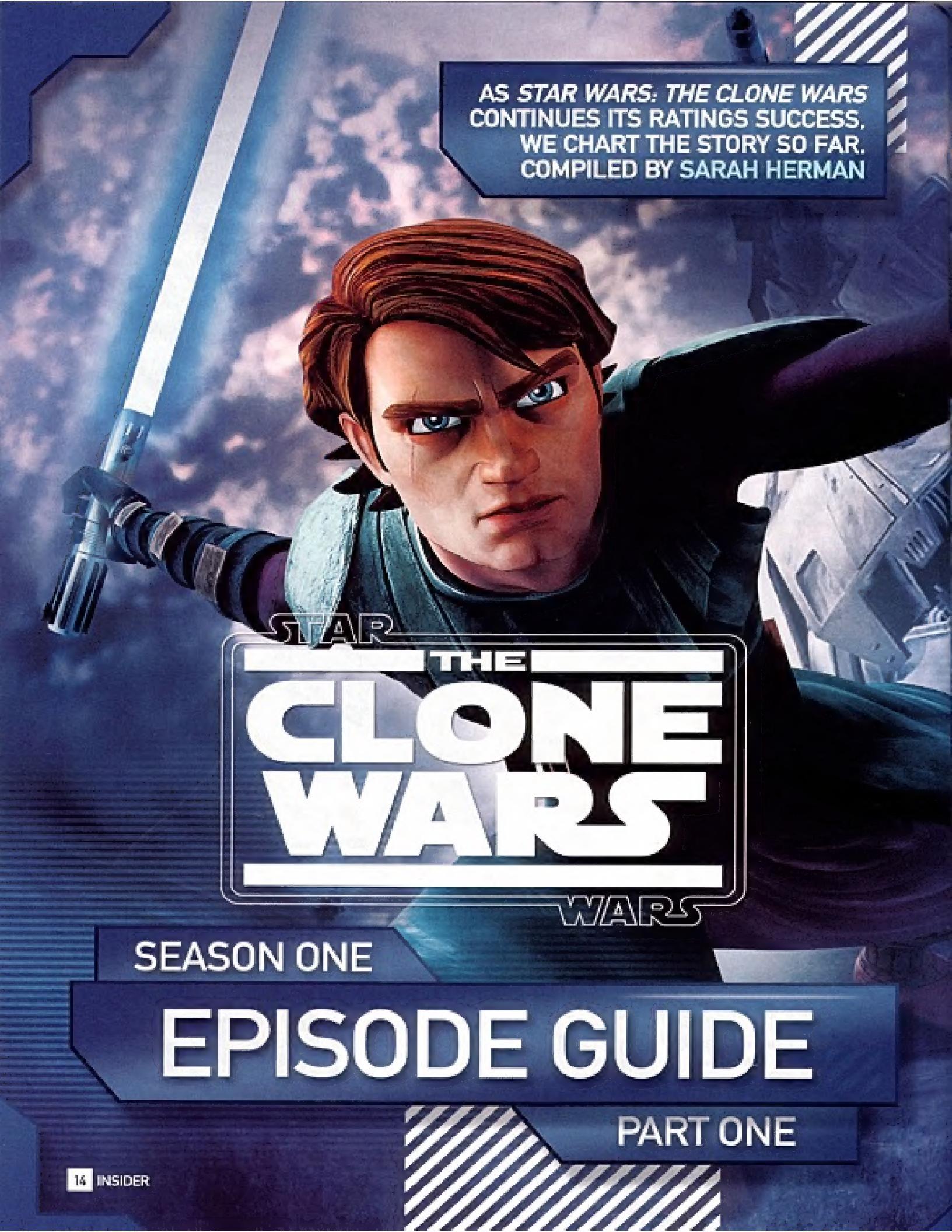
The game is set roughly 300 years after the events of *Knights of the Old Republic*—a timeframe completely unexplored in the lore. ♦



TOY INVASION!

NPD, an industry tracking and data organization, has reported that *Star Wars* was the No. 1 U.S. boys' toy property of 2008, and the No. 1 license overall in toys—outselling all other licensed toys for boys, girls, and pre-school kids through the first eight months of the year.

In addition, five books based on *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* entered *The New York Times* Best Seller lists, continuing a remarkable string of success for *Star Wars* publishing. ♦



AS *STAR WARS: THE CLONE WARS* CONTINUES ITS RATINGS SUCCESS, WE CHART THE STORY SO FAR. COMPILED BY SARAH HERMAN

STAR **THE** **CLONE WARS** WARS

SEASON ONE

EPISODE GUIDE

PART ONE

1.01

"AMBUSH"



WRITTEN BY STEPHEN MELCHING • DIRECTED BY DAVE BULLOCK

MISSION BRIEF

Jedi Master Yoda and three clone troopers—Thire, Jek, and Rys—take on Asajj Ventress and her droid army in a battle to prove a single Jedi can make a difference.



VENTRESS:

[About Yoda] He'll be the small, shriveled, green one...with the lightsaber!

SUPER BATTLE DROID:

Get out of the way! All of you! I'm having a serious malfunction!

SEPARATIST SPEAK



JEK:
Okay, clankers, suck laser!

YODA:
Left behind, no one will be.

CLONE CHATTER

STAR WARRIORS



KING KATUUNKO



ASAJJ VENTRESS



COUNT DOOKU



LT. THIRE



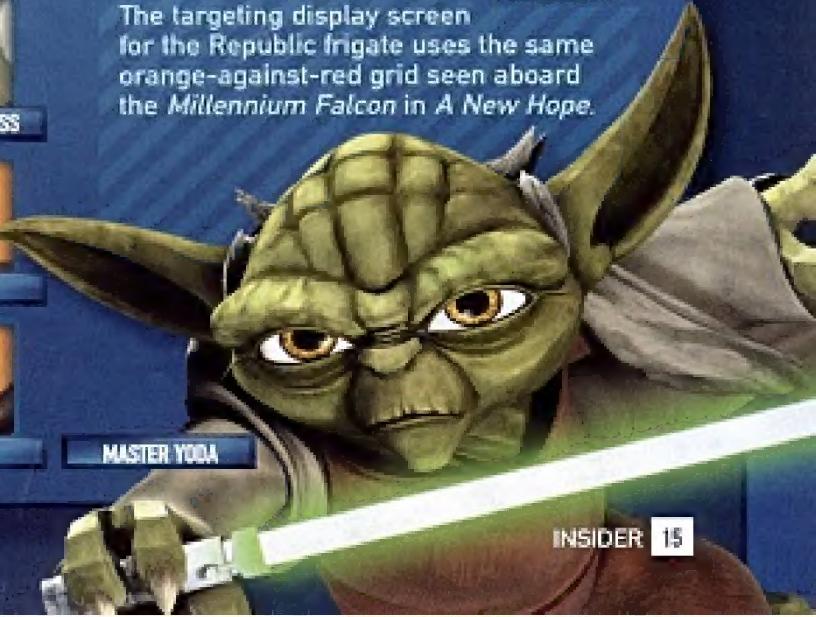
RYS



JEK

INSIDER INFO

The targeting display screen for the Republic frigate uses the same orange-against-red grid seen aboard the *Millennium Falcon* in *A New Hope*.



"RISING MALEVOLENCE"

WRITTEN BY STEPHEN MELCHING • DIRECTED BY DAVE FILION

**SEPARATIST SPEAK****GENERAL GRIEVOUS:**

Another successful test. Wouldn't you say, Count?

COUNT DOOKU:

We must keep our position secret. Send out the hunters. I want all of those life-pods destroyed.

MISSION BRIEF

The Separatists' new battleship, *Malevolence*, is revealed. As its mighty ion canon kills the power of Republic ships, can anyone escape from its devastating might?

CLONE CHATTER**ANAKIN SKYWALKER:**

Lives are in danger. Ahsoka. We can't just turn our backs on them.

PLO KOON:

When you ask for trouble, you should not be surprised when it finds you.

STAR WARRIORS

WILHUFF THRAWN



PLO KOON



COUNT DOOKU



AHSOKA TANO



MACE WINDU



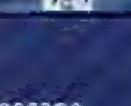
PALPATINE



GENERAL GRIEVOUS



OBI-WAN KENOBI



ANAKIN SKYWALKER

"SHADOW OF MALEVOLENCE"

WRITTEN BY STEPHEN MELCHING • DIRECTED BY BRIAN KALIN O'CONNELL

**SEPARATIST SPEAK****BATTLEDROID 0012:**

Boy, this is a lot more fun when they're not shooting back.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

Target those escape pods. I have a reputation to uphold!

MISSION BRIEF

Anakin Skywalker leads a daring assault on the massive battleship *Malevolence*, but first he must lead his squadron through a mysterious nebula. Meanwhile, General Grievous prepares to attack an unprotected medical base.

CLONE CHATTER**BROADSIDE:**
I'm going to blow up that battleship.**PLO KOON:**
A clear path if ever there was one.**STAR WARRIORS**

PLO KOON



ADMIRAL YUULAREN



MACE WINDU



BROADSIDE



TASH



GENERAL GRIEVOUS

INSIDER INFO

The entry hatchways to the escape pods aboard the *Triumphant* have the distinctive Republic logo on them.

INSIDER INFO

The Republic gunship *Crumb Bomber* with a Kowakian monkey lizard drawn on its side, can be seen in the *Resolute* hangar.



"DESTROY MALEVOLENCE"

WRITTEN BY TIM BURG ■ DIRECTED BY IRVAN KALIN O'CONNELL

MISSION BRIEF

With the *Malevolence* taking heavy fire, Count Dooku sets a plan in motion that sees Senator Amidala taken hostage in order to deter the clones from their attack. Anakin and Obi-Wan start a rescue mission, heading to the heart of *Malevolence* for some serious payback!

SEPARATIST SPEAK

COUNT DOOKU:

(To Grievous) Do not compound your failure this day by allowing our prize warship to fall.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

Sound the alarm! We have stowaways on board!

INSIDER INFO

When General Grievous steps off the rail jet, a voice can be heard saying "Mind the gap."

ANAKIN SKYWALKER

ANAKIN TANO



STAR WARRIORS

CLONE CHATTER

OBi-WAN KENOBI:
(To Anakin) That's your plan? Just fly there, land, hope they don't spot us, and walk in the door?

PADMÉ AMIDALA:
I see now this whole thing was a trap, and I'm afraid I walked right into it.

OBi-WAN KENOBI



OBi-WAN KENOBI



ANAKIN



ANAKIN TANO



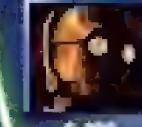
AHSOKA TANO



COUNT DOOKU



COUNT DOOKU



PADMÉ AMIDALA



R2-D2



C-3PO

"ROOKIES"

WRITTEN BY STEPHEN MELCHIONI • DIRECTED BY JUSTIN RIDGE



MISSION BRIEF

General Grievous' droid army takes over a clone tracking station, emitting a false all-clear signal while the Separatists prepare to launch an attack on the clone home-planet of Kamino. Commander Cody and Captain Rex arrive for a routine inspection only to be met by the rookie clones and a besieged station they must protect.

STAR WARRIORS



OBI-WAN KENOBI



ANAKIN SKYWALKER



COMMANDER CODY



KIT



AHSOKA



ANAKIN



CAPTAIN



AHSOKA



OBI-WAN KENOBI



GENERAL



GENERAL GRIEVOUS



GENERAL GRIEVOUS

"DOWNFALL OF A DROID"

WRITTEN BY GEORGE KASTIC • DIRECTED BY ROB COLEMAN



SEPARATIST SPEAK

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

The destruction of Kamino will stop their production of clones for good.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

Wipe them out! We can't let a few puny clones stop us.

CLONE CHATTER

ECHO:

Personally, I like it that it's so quiet out here. I can catch up on the reg manuals.

CAPTAIN REX:

We have to retake this base, so we will retake this base!

SEPARATIST SPEAK

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

Skywalker, now you have fallen into my trap!

GHA NACKT:

[To Anakin] If you didn't have a lightsaber, you'd be a dead man!

CLONE CHATTER

AHSOKA TANO:

Suicide is not the Jedi way, Master.

ANAKIN SKYWALKER:

Where's Artoo when I need him?

MISSION BRIEF

Against the odds Anakin Skywalker manages to defend the world of Bothawui from General Grievous' attack, but R2-D2 is lost in the fray. Refusing to leave his loyal friend behind Anakin embarks on a daring rescue mission—accompanied by Artoo's replacement, R3-S6.

STAR WARRIORS



AHSOKA TANO



ANAKIN SKYWALKER



R2-D2



CAPTAIN REX



OBI-WAN KENOBI



GENERAL GRIEVOUS

INSIDER INFO

This is the first episode directed by Rob Coleman who was ILM's animation director on Episodes I through III.



1.07

"DUEL OF THE DROIDS"

MISSION BRIEF

WRITTEN BY KEVIN CAMPBELL • DIRECTED BY ROB COLEMAN

Anakin Skywalker and Ahsoka Tano continue their search for R2-D2, who has been snatched by a droid smuggler and delivered into General Grievous' hands. They locate the Separatist listening post and board with orders to destroy it, even though they believe Artoo to be held there. Ahsoka raises her lightsaber to Grievous himself as Anakin races to find Artoo, and R3-S4 turns out to be something other than advertised.



STAR WARRIORS



GHA NACKT



GENERAL GRIEVOUS



CAPTAIN REX



ANAKIN SKYWALKER



AHSOKA TANO



R2-D2



R3-D4



AROO

SEPERATIST SPEAK

GHA NACKT:
It appears this droid's mission-memory has never been erased. It contains every Republic formation and strategy they have!

GRIEVOUS:
[To Ahsoka] They sent a child to destroy my station? The Republic must be running out of Jedi.

CLONE CHATTER

AHSOKA TANO:
[About Grievous] He's just another tinny, boy! Let's scrap him like the rest!

ANAKIN SKYWALKER:
That double-crossing droid is a spy!

INSIDER INFO

R3 droids were seen in *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*. In *Empire*, R3-Y2, assists the Rebels during their escape from Echo Base.



"BOMBAD JEDI"

WRITTEN BY KEVIN RUBIO/STEVE MELCHING • DIRECTED BY JESSE YEH



SEPARATIST SPEAK

NUTE GUNRAY:

You are under my protection now, and you will do what I demand of you.

NUTE GUNRAY:

You will pay for this treachery!

CLONE CHATTER

THREEPIO:

Jar Jar Binks! Have you gone completely mad? You'll do more harm than good!

JAR JAR BINKS:

Meesa not a Jedi!

MISSION BRIEF

Senator Padme Amidala leads a diplomatic convoy to Rodia. Accompanied by Jar Jar Binks and C-3PO. On arrival, her Uncle, Senator Onaconda Fars, reveals she has become a bargaining chip as he plans to join the Separatists who promise to bring relief to his suffering people. He imprisons Padme, and prepares to hand her over to Separatist leader Nute Gunray. It's left to Threepio and Jar Jar—mistaken for a Jedi—to do their best to save her before it's too late.

STAR WARRIORS



PALPATINE



PADME AMIDALA



ASAJJ VENTRESS



C-3PO



ONAONDA FARIS



NUTE GUNRAY

INSIDER INFO

This episode is co-written by Kevin Rubio who was behind the fan-favorite short film "Troops."

"CLOAK OF DARKNESS"

WRITTEN BY PAUL DINI • DIRECTED BY DAVE BULLOCK



MISSION BRIEF

When Jedi Master Luminara Unduli and Ahsoka Tano escort war prisoner Nute Gunray to a Jedi cruiser, they are attacked by droid forces led by Asajj Ventress. While Ahsoka guards the prisoner, Luminara takes on the accomplished killer, only to realize that she needs the Padawan's help. With a traitorous soldier working against them, and Ventress hungry for a kill, they must fight to keep their prisoner... and their lives!

SEPARATIST SPEAK

ASAJJ VENTRESS:

(To Ahsoka) If it isn't Skywalker's filthy, obnoxious little pet. Stand down, little girl, and I'll give you a cookie.

STAR WARRIORS



LUMINARA UNDULI



CAPTAIN AHSSOKA TANO



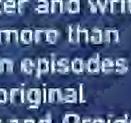
NUTE GUNRAY



ANAKIN SKYWALKER



OBI-WAN KENOBI



AHSSOKA TANO



OBI-WAN KENOBI

INSIDER INFO

Writer Paul Dini, a multiple award-winning animation producer and writer, wrote more than a dozen episodes of the original *Ewoks* and *Droids* animated series.

1.10

"LAIR OF GRIEVOUS"

WRITTEN BY HENRY BESOY • DIRECTED BY ATSUSHI TAKEUCHI



KIT FISTO:

Those who have power should restrain themselves from using it.

NAHDAR VEBB:

[To Grievous] Don't make me destroy you!

CLONE CHATTER

SEPARATIST SPEAK

COUNT DOOKU:

[To General Grievous] It's time for you to prove yourself.

GENERAL GRIEVOUS:

I will rest when the Jedi are dead.

STAR WARRIORS



KIT FISTO



ANAKIN



LUMINARA UNDULI



AHSOKA TANO



AHSOKA TANO



OBI-WAN



MACE WINDU



OBI-WAN



GENERAL GRIEVOUS



MACE



OBI-WAN



MACE

INSIDER INFO

Japanese animation director Atsushi Takeuchi has been involved with such high profile anime projects as *The Sky Crawlers* and *Ghost in the Shell*.

TO BE
CONTINUED....

BIG
INTERVIEW



SINCE JOINING LUCASARTS IN 2000, SOUND DESIGNER AND VOICE ARTIST DAVID W. COLLINS HAS WORKED ON MANY TITLES. HE FACED HIS BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS AUDIO LEAD ON THE BLOCKBUSTER GAME, *STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED*!

WORDS: JONATHAN WILKINS

SOUND UNLEASHED

Star Wars Insider: What does an audio lead do? An audio lead is responsible for everything that comes out of the speakers. I oversee sound effects creation, integration and voiceovers. I can be involved in casting and directing, although I didn't actually cast and direct *The Force Unleashed*. I'm also responsible for working with the music supervisor and the composer.

I worked on the game since pre-production in 2004, when we started the previsualization videos. I have a theatrical and acting background and sometimes do voice-overs. When we made those early videos we needed stormtroopers that would interact with the apprentice, and so I did those voices.

Were you involved in the casting process? When we auditioned the characters for *The Force Unleashed*, I was chosen to

read across [act with] everyone auditioning. I read with hundreds of actors during the casting process.

Once we assembled the cast we had a table read in February 2007 and I read as PROXY, the droid who is programmed to kill the apprentice. At one point during the table read Sam Witwer, who plays the secret apprentice, and I started improvising some of the stuff that actually ended up in the game. We had this camaraderie that you could really feel at the table read, and when PROXY says "Leave me behind," everyone went, "awwww!" They had the full intention to recast because I'm an employee and they don't want to show any favoritism. Eventually they put my voice in the game and said, "No promises," and then finally, they said, "We want you to play the role of PROXY."

Who is Proxy?

Proxy's a very dangerous droid, who is programmed to kill the apprentice, but is all smiles while he's trying to do it. He doesn't understand death and it's this lethal versus loyal dichotomy that makes him unique and interesting.

Star Wars fans have never seen what Sith training is really like. To see PROXY you get a glimpse of what it would be like to be raised in terror, because your best friend may try to kill you in your sleep. When he fails he says he's sorry, and when Vader's not there they're friends like kids in a playground.

Did you deliberately cast a British actor as the Imperial Officer, Juno Eclipse? We started casting in San Francisco and LA for Juno Eclipse and actually found some people we really liked. Darragh O'Farrell and I ended up debating about casting a young woman from Northern California. I felt that not only is it important how Juno looks and acts, but she needs to sound really pleasing

to gamers' ears because most of the time you hear her over the com-link as she's giving you directions. This woman was wonderful, but she had a very specific Northern Californian accent. It just didn't feel very Imperial and the original character description did say, "Imperial, upper crust, British accent perhaps."

We saw probably two dozen actresses from London, and it was great because they were so prepared and so excited to do Star Wars. We knew we needed to shoot in less than a month and we were still looking for the right Juno. Nathalie came in and she was instantly very personable. She was so relaxed and she loved Star Wars. Literally a week later, she was over here working with us on the videogame.

medium than film. If you take a sound like Force lightning from the film, you have to alter it slightly in order to make it feel a little more explosive because you want the player to feel it when they push the button. I would often take some sort of pop or explosion at the top of it and cut it in with existing material in order to give it more punch. The same is true of Force powers. Force push or grip in the movies are usually represented by low rumbles or some rolling thunder or a beautiful John Williams cue to let you know that something magical is happening. In the game you can just sit there and press the Force push button again and again, so we changed the sound slightly.

The lightsaber hum is incredibly faithful to the movies. You want people to feel

"BEN BURTT AND MATT WOOD SET THE BAR SO HIGH THAT WE JUST WANT TO BE FAITHFUL TO THEIR WORK BECAUSE WE REvere IT. IT'S GENIUS."

Was it fun having the opportunity to work with Jimmy Smits (Bail Organa)?

Jimmy Smits was such a professional and really wonderful to work with. He was very grateful to George Lucas for the opportunity to be in the films and said he would love to help out and was such a good sport. He came up to San Francisco and he shot his scenes in a couple of days. We sent him the script ahead of time, and we had cue cards made for him. He already knew the whole thing. When he turns to the apprentice and says, "Will you lead us?" Sam melted and turned into a six year old kid!

Did you have access to Ben Burtt's archive of sounds?

I feel like I've been very lucky in my career to play in Ben Burtt's backyard for so many years. It's important for me as a Star Wars fan to make sure that the sound is authentically a Star Wars experience. The game looks so beautiful and I wanted it to sound authentic. A videogame is a very different

like they're playing the film. That was the goal: from the moment someone picks up the controller it should feel like they're in a Star Wars film.

Another example of that is the planet Felucia, which we see in Episode III for about 20 seconds. In our game you see much more of Felucia so we had to expand on those existing sounds.



We created something between 12–14,000 unique sound effects for the game. It's a lot of work. Ben Burtt and Matt Wood set the bar so high with the movies, and we just want to be faithful to their work because we revere it so much. It's genius.

What is your favorite sound in the game? I love the Felucians. I think they're really creepy. Those are characters that we

David W. Collins



"IN OUR GAME YOU
SEE MUCH MORE OF
FELUCIA SO WE HAD TO
EXPAND ON THOSE
EXISTING SOUNDS."

Two Eclipse
voiced by Matt Sloan
andress Hallinan Cine

came up with and had to make them sound authentic. I really love the sound of the Sarlacc. It's actually the sound of a baby that's pitched down multiple octaves combined with a little bit of an angry elephant grunt or gurgle.

Was it difficult finding an actor to provide the voice of Darth Vader? It's very difficult. We knew that was going to be a challenge. Getting James Earl Jones [the original voice of Darth Vader] was an availability issue. We knew that we needed to have someone that was very available that we could bring into the studio multiple times.

We'd had Darth Vader in games before like Empire at War and Battlefront and we've had soundalikes, but this game required some very serious acting and subtlety for Darth Vader.

I think before we found Matt Sloan we'd tried to record three or four different Vaders. We had tried theatre





"FROM THE MOMENT SOMEONE PICKS UP THE CONTROLLER IT SHOULD FEEL LIKE THEY'RE IN A STAR WARS FILM."

actors from New York, London and Chicago. Someone saw the Chad Vader videos on YouTube and we all had the same realization: that's pretty good, maybe we should try contacting this guy!

We flew him out just to try it and he was really wonderful. There's something about his voice when you run him through the processing and pitch him down a little bit where it just feels like Darth Vader.

Was the young Leia difficult to cast?
Leia is a lot younger in our game—probably around 14 years old—and presumably before she acquires that smokey alto voice that we associate with Princess Leia in the movies.

This would be Padmé's daughter and she's very young at this point, so we cast Catherine Taber who plays Padmé in *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* for consistency. I modified her voice a little in the final mix, gave it a bit of pitch, similar to what they did in Episode I with Natalie Portman's voice.

In certain versions of the game Lobot speaks! Was it difficult to give this silent character a voice?
We've never heard Lobot talk, obviously. Tom Kane [Yoda in *The Clone Wars*] is a huge *Star Wars* fan and gave it a shot. He gave him this official, almost robotic voice that still sounds very human.

Do you think we'll ever see PROXY again?
I hope so! I'd love to see him again and I'd certainly love to play him again. We'll have to see what the future holds.

Has George Lucas played the game?
George Lucas' son Jett is a huge gamer and he takes home every game we make. Jett was a member of the team on *The Force Unleashed*. He worked a couple of summers as an intern with us.

George was at the game's launch and told everyone how proud he was of this being the first big collaboration between ILM and LucasArts. It was really great for us to have him involve himself from a creative standpoint.

I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!

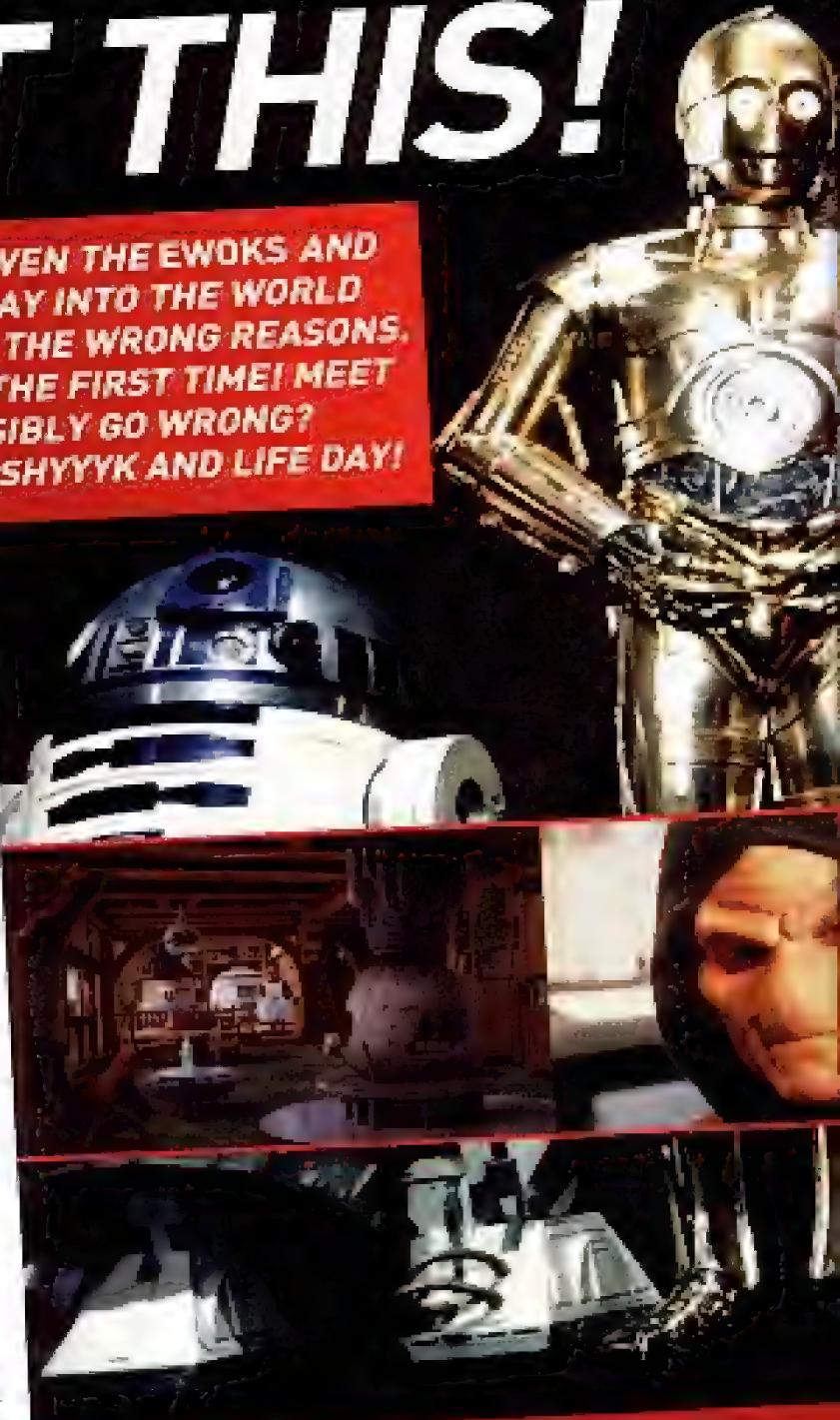
LONG BEFORE THE CLONE WARS, OR EVEN THE EWOKS AND DROIDS HOUR, STAR WARS' FIRST FORAY INTO THE WORLD OF TV WAS UNFORGETTABLE FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS. SEE THE WOOKIEE HOMEPAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME! MEET CHEWIE'S FAMILY! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY GO WRONG? ALEX NEWBORN SETS COURSE FOR KASHYYYK AND LIFE DAY!

There's a profound moment in the oft-mentioned Star Wars Holiday Special, when Jefferson Starship frontman Marty Balin looks skyward as he ponders lyrically, "Yes, I would really like to know. What are they watching us for?"

Sure, we've all poked fun at the infamous Star Wars Holiday Special. Even George Lucas, voicing himself for the Robot Chicken "therapy" promo said: "It all started in 1978 when I let people make a Star Wars TV special without me... It came out so badly!" Joking aside, Balin's question remains: "What are they watching us for?" Why does nearly every Star Wars fan eventually seek out the Holiday Special, even despite warnings from whomever provides them with a copy? Is it simply because it aired only once—on November 17, 1978—and was never repeated? Surely, like Vader, there is some good in it?

CHEWIE: A FAMILY GUY!

The introduction of Chewbacca's family was one of the first expansions of the Star Wars universe. The fourth Holiday Special draft script describes





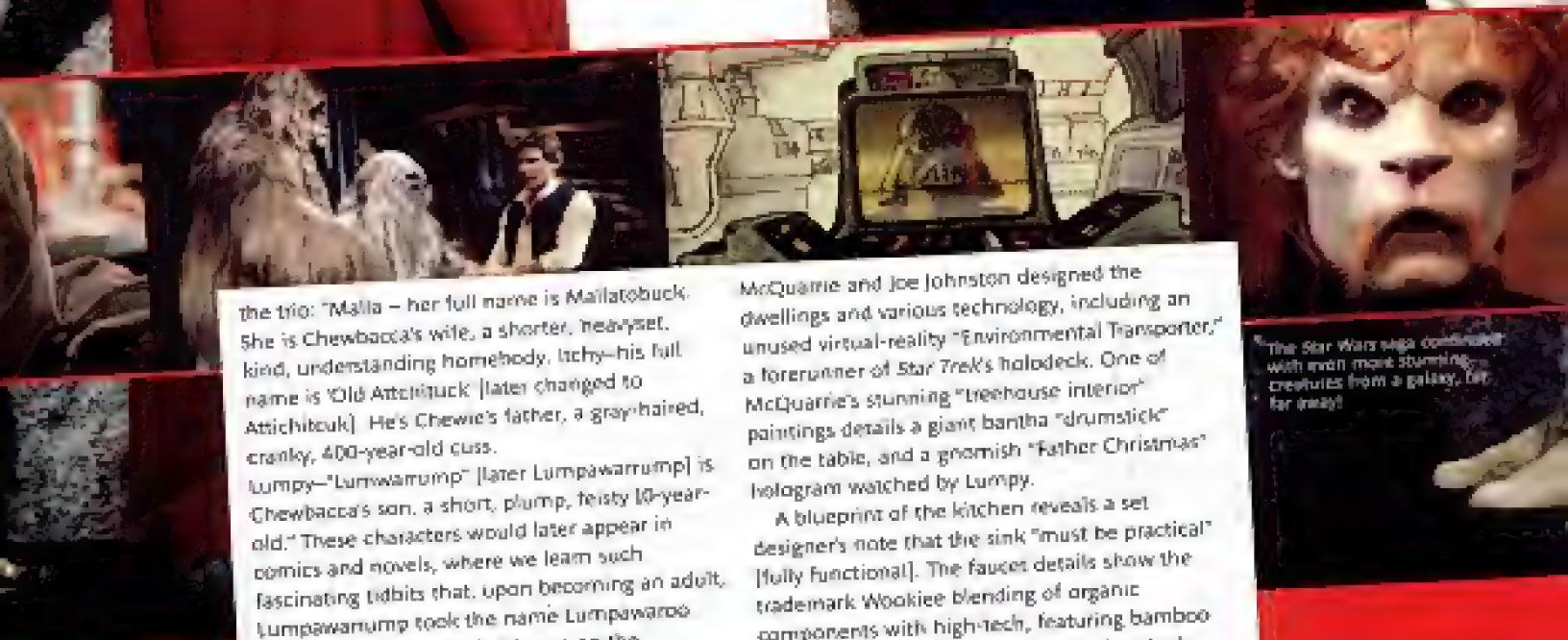
the trio: "Malla — her full name is Mailatobuck. She is Chewbacca's wife, a shorter, heavyset, kind, understanding homelybody. Itchy—his full name is 'Old Attichituck' [later changed to Attichibuk]. He's Chewie's father, a gray-haired, cranky, 400-year-old cuss. Lumpy—"Lumpawarrump" [later Lumpawarrump] is Chewbacca's son, a short, plump, feisty 10-year-old." These characters would later appear in comics and novels, where we learn such fascinating tidbits that, upon becoming an adult, Lumpawarrump took the name Lumpawaroo.

They're first depicted at home on the Wookiee-world "Kashook," subsequently renamed Kashyyyk. Star Wars artists Ralph

McQuarrie and Joe Johnston designed the dwellings and various technology, including an unused virtual-reality "Environmental Transporter," a forerunner of Star Trek's holodeck. One of McQuarrie's stunning "treehouse interior" paintings details a giant bantha "drumstick" on the table, and a gromish "Father Christmas" hologram watched by Lumpy.

A blueprint of the kitchen reveals a set designer's note that the sink "must be practical" [fully functional]. The faucet details show the trademark Wookiee blending of organic components with high-tech, featuring bamboo spigots, flexible plastic tubes, and a brushed aluminum backsplash.

"The Star Wars saga continues with even more stunning creatures from a galaxy far, far away!"



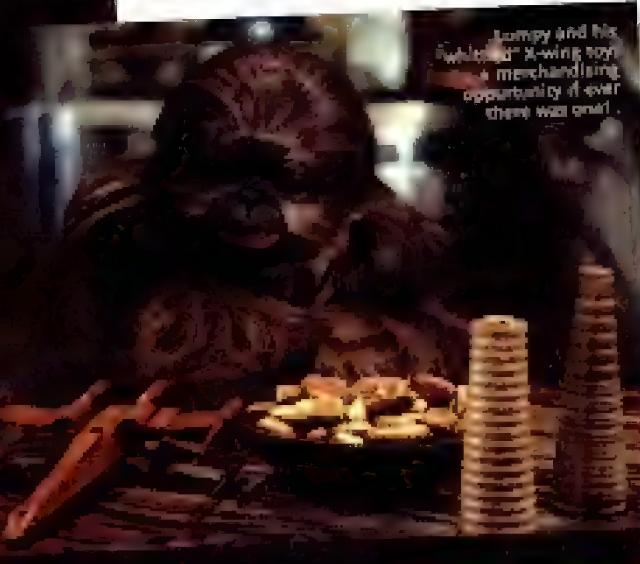
WOOKIEE WORDS!

Wags complain about Chewbacca's family speaking only their native Shyriwook, without subtitles. But Ben Burtt had just received a Special Achievement Oscar [on April 3, 1978] for "creation of alien voices" in *Star Wars*. It's little wonder the producers wanted to showcase his talent!

Burtt recalls in his *Galactic Phrase Book and Travel Guide*: "I was faced with creating and sustaining an entire hour of Wookiee conversation. I went out [sound] collecting to the Olympic Game Farm in Sequim, Washington. They had a dozen or more captive bears of various species, and I spent two days getting them to vocalize. Grizzlies provided a basis for grumpy old grandpa and some black bears for Malla. For Lumpy I needed something cute, and I eventually found what I needed at the San Jose Baby Zoo, where I recorded a baby bear named Tank."

WOOKIEE LOOKS!

Although Stuart Freeborn made the original Chewbacca costume, three new costumes were made, primarily by Stan Winston. Winston had no studio of his own at the time, so he worked with his friend Tom Burman. Tom and his brother, Ellis, helped on the Wookiee bodysuits, using "fur" mined from dozens of human-hair wigs. Whatever happened to the Winston-made Wookiees? Lumpy's mask can be seen in Don Bies' Archives tour on the 1993 Definitive Collection Original Trilogy laserdiscs. In 2005, Bies told Skot Kirkwood that all three Wookiee bodysuits, as well as the masks for Lumpy and Itchy, are archived, but sadly the whereabouts of Malla's beautiful mask are currently unknown. Other props archived are Lumpy's "whittled" X-wing toys and the yellow computer that plays the "Story of the Faithful Wookiee" cartoon segment.



"AT PRACTICALLY EVERY CONVENTION I GO TO I GET INQUIRIES ABOUT THE HOLIDAY SPECIAL FROM FRIENDS WHO WOULD LOVE TO SEE IT!" – PETER MAYHEW

ANIMATED ADVENTURE

Noteworthy as Boba Fett's debut, and for being voiced by original *Star Wars* actors, the animated segment was produced by Nelvana Inc. in Canada, which later animated the *Droids* and *Ewoks* TV cartoons. Although a 1985 *Droids* episode caused massive continuity headaches with an earlier meeting between Fett and the droids, Nelvana's first go at animating the *Star Wars* universe is generally praised as the *Holiday Special's* saving grace.

Even the paper insert with Kenner's mail-away Boba Fett figure mentioned his role in the special, erroneously rechristening it "A Wookiee [sic] Holiday." Kenner conceptualized several possible toys from the special, including Boba's Sea Serpent—complete with a mysterious "mind harness" accessory—and action figures of Chewie's family that made it to the mock-up stage before being cancelled. Standard Chewbacca figures were kit-bashed to become Malla and Itchy, while Lumpy was a resculpted "Johnny," the little boy in the Fisher-Price Adventure People line.

The script revealed that the cartoon's Rebel leader was named General Rist, apparently a stylized version of a minor character from *Star Wars*' Yavin 4 base scenes, judging by the facial hair. One of Rist's lines in the cartoon was redubbed before broadcast: "We're in mortal danger from our own forces," was originally the much darker: "The Wookiee has killed him [Han], and now he means to kill us, too!" Another cut excised exposition about Panina system's seven planets and 35 moons. Interestingly, a 2002 arrivals/departures sign was installed in Disneyland's Star Tours ride which lists flight five originating from Panina.



WOOKIEE WONDERS!

Costumed when Mickey Morton (Malla) and three-foot-tall Patty Maloney (Lumpy) were ventriloquist performers who'd worked together on *Far Out Space Huz!* It's doubtful they expected to headline as play "mother" and "son," but when casting costumed characters, height is more important than gender. The late Morton's credits include a live-action *Galaxy Girl* in *Legends of the Superheroes* and *Star Trek* alien Koog, who fights Kirk in "The Gamblers of Triskallion." Patty Maloney played Tina, Hawk's robot girlfriend on *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, and even donned the *Twink* costume herself for two episodes. In addition, Maloney acted alongside Carrie Fisher again in 1981's *Under the Rainbow*.

It's the only non-film planet listed, an obscure shout-out to the *Star Wars Holiday Special*.

OLD FRIENDS RETURN

Practically the entire main cast of *Star Wars* returned for the *Holiday Special*, with the exception of Kenny Baker. Anthony Daniels reprised C-3PO for the first of many repeat performances. He later told *Star Wars Insider*, "I had fun working on it, but as a safety measure I didn't actually watch it." Harrison Ford turned in his usual solid performance; in the very first scene, we witness Solo telling Chewie, "Trust me!" well before Indiana Jones popularized the line!

The daughter of two famous singers, Carrie Fisher offered her own vocal contribution during the Finale, which can now be found on an officially licensed CD. The disc accompanies Steve Sansweet and Pete Vilmur's *Star Wars Vault* book, which also includes a reproduction of the script page containing the lyrics. Funny enough, Fisher also wore the famous Leia buns and sang when she hosted *Saturday Night Live* on November 18, 1978, the night after the *Holiday Special* aired. It was a very special weekend for Leia fans!

James Earl Jones was tapped for voice work on the cartoon, and to redub some cut Vader footage. He was originally uncredited at his own request on *Star Wars*, so seeing his name in the *Holiday Special's* opening titles was a revelation to many fans.



LEFT ON THE CUTTING-ROOM FLOOR

Luke Skywalker talks to Malla via wall-screen: "This is so frustrating. You can understand me, but I can't understand you. And none of us can understand Artoo!"

Another deleted line:

"Where's C-3PO when you need him?" predates Goldennrod's similar sentiment about R2 in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

Ackmena contemplates her future.

"I HAD NO IDEA IT WAS EVEN A PART OF THE WHOLE STAR WARS THING. I JUST REMEMBER SINGING TO A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH FUNNY HEADS." — BEA ARTHUR

GUEST STARS

BEA ARTHUR AS ACKMENA

In 1978, Beatrice Arthur was a hot TV commodity as the title character in the series *Maude*. She was friends with the composer who'd added the "Goodnight, But Not Goodbye" lyrics to the Cantina band song, and so she was tapped to play the bartender Ackmena. In 2005, Arthur recalled, "It was a wonderful time, but I had no idea it was even a part of the whole *Star Wars* thing. I just remember singing to a bunch of people with funny heads." Considered a high point of the special, Ackmena was acknowledged in a fun cutaway Cantina illustration for James Luceno's 2004 book, *The Worlds of Star Wars*, as the "nightshift bartender" requesting "better hours" from Chalmun, the Wookiee proprietor.





HARVEY KORMAN AS KRELMAN, DROMBOID AND GORMAANDA!

The late Harvey Korman co-starred as Ackmena's 11-fingered admirer Krelman, the technico-leptic "Amorphillian" Dromboid and the four-armed Chef Gormaanda, the "Julia Child of the Milky Way." Korman portrayed Krelman as surprisingly sweet, sincere and sympathetic, considering he has a blowhole on the top of his head. *Star Wars Insider* attempted to interview Korman in 2003 for the 25th anniversary of the *Holiday Special*; the phone call with his agent was unintentionally hilarious, as the confused man kept marveling, "Harvey was in *Star Wars*? Harvey?"

ART CARNEY AS SAUN DANNI



Loveable Art Carney plays Saun Danni from the Trading Post on Wookiee Planet C, friend to Chewbacca's family and secret member of the Rebel Alliance. *Honeymooners* fans will recognize Carney's comedy style as sewer worker Ed Norton, and the script even describes one trademark bit as "Trader Danni does Norton shits" (similar stage directions call for Ed to give a Jack Benny stare, an Oliver Hardy take, and more.)



DIAHANN CARROLL AS MERMEA!

Academy Award nominee Diahann Carroll appears as Itoh's holographic fantasy woman, Mermeia. She'll easily the most talented soloist in the show, but her number is often overlooked because of the suggestive nature of the sequence. Her feathered Bob Mackie headdress inspired the Omwati race in Kevin J. Anderson's *Jedi Search*, exemplified by the character Qwi Xox.



LEGACY!

Factor in the song by Jefferson Starship, the holographic circus troupe, some ineffectual imperial antagonists (including the Wilhelm-screaming stormtrooper, B4711) and it's no wonder the *Star Wars Holiday Special* is accused of having an identity crisis. Perhaps it just had too many producers, directors, and writers trying to reverse-engineer *Star Wars* success, with not enough visionaries at the helm making a cohesive whole.

In an interview in 2000, Ben Burtt opined, "It needs re-editing, it could be re-cut and re-released. If you tightened up the story, I think you could have another little episode." Peter Mayhew wondered, "Why hasn't it been released more? At practically every convention I go to I get inquiries about the *Holiday Special* from friends who would love to see it. It's one of those things that Chewie fans and *Star Wars* fans would adore."

Every mistake can be learned from. George Lucas learned not to relax the reins on his creation. As one of the earliest spin-offs, the *Holiday Special* earned its place in the saga's history by establishing that no one could duplicate *Star Wars'* unique success, not even by whipping and stirring in many of the same ingredients. The special remains unreleased on video to this day.

Alex Newhoff has seen the *Holiday Special* hundreds of times, but has never seen *Citizen Kane*. Special thanks to Skot Kirkwood, John Davis, Peter Flessas, Jim Lucano, David Yeh, Chris Rinehart, Owen Driscoll, and Paul Hruby.

The galaxy kid wanted: Han Solo

MORE FROM MOS EISLEY

Cut scenes from *Star Wars* are recycled for the "Life on Tatooine" segment. Remember the stilts-legged alien in Mos Eisley? How about "Little Flash Gordon" outside the Cantina? An improvised on-set gag of actor Marcus Powell running under the stiltswalker's legs didn't quite make the movie, but found a home in the *Holiday Special*.

Moviegoers loved the diverse aliens in the Cantina scene, so a similar sequence using those masks seemed like a good idea. Some additional new makeup by the Burman brothers complemented Rick Baker and Stuart Freeborn's original designs. The infamous "giant mouse" puppet, known as Tin-Tin Dwarf was repurposed from the 1976 film *The Food of the Gods*, on which both Rick Baker and Tom Burman worked.

"I was faced with creating and sustaining a whole hour of Wookiee conversation."

— Ben Burtt

DATABANK

Orphaned by Darth Vader during a brutal raid on Kashyyyk, a young Galen Marek – the son of a powerful Jedi – was taken by Vader and became a pawn in the Dark Lord's plot to overthrow Emperor Palpatine. Given the code name Starkiller, he helped Vader implement the final stages of the Jedi Purge by eliminating exiled Jedi Masters Kazdan Paratus and Shaak Ti and taking on the powerful Rahn Kota. A cunning warrior whose skill with the lightsaber was matched by his sheer brutality when harnessing the power of the Force, Marek was raised in fear. Constantly tested in battle by his droid aide, PROXY, he trusted few other beings. This lack of love led to a dehumanized warrior, angry, unleashed, and virtually unstoppable....

PROFILE

HOMEWORLD: KASHYYYK

SPECIES: HUMAN

Gender: Male

Height: 1.85 meters

Weapon: Lightsaber

Affiliation: Empire/Sith

SKILLS

Highly skilled with the Force and the lightsaber, Marek's lack of life experience outside of his intense Sith training puts him at a disadvantage in terms of leadership and piloting skills. His loyalty is also questionable. Can anyone raised in fear be trusted?

STRENGTH	80
SPEED	85
POWER	90
LEADERSHIP	70
MOBILITY	85
LOYALTY	70
SPECIAL ABILITY	85
BONUS SKILL	85

SECRET APPRENTICE

They are both strong with the Force. They both have much anger in them and they are both potentially powerful enough to overthrow Emperor Palpatine in order to rule the galaxy.

Hot-headed and naive, despite

his great powers, Luke Skywalker is perhaps the underdog when his skills are compared to the amazing unleashed abilities of his Sith opponent. But Skywalker has the advantage of great determination and strength of character. Thanks to the guidance and loyalty of





LUKE SKYWALKER

family, Jedi, and friends, Luke is a compassionate and resourceful warrior who often puts those closest to him first.

Vader's apprentice is the exact negative of Skywalker, raised in isolation as a Sith by Darth Vader. The Jedi use the Force with care

and respect, but the Sith test its limits, craving unlimited power. Vader trained his apprentice to use the Force at its most extreme.

So will the secret apprentice extinguish the "New Hope?" Or will Skywalker prove to be a Starkiller killer? Turn to page 79 to see who triumphs!

DATABANK

A Jedi like his father before him, Luke Skywalker's upbringing on the sleepy planet of Tatooine did little to prepare him for his role in galactic history. He was briefly trained by the wise old hermit Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi, who had served the Republic as a Jedi general during the Clone Wars. Stubborn and argumentative, Luke learned to curb his aggression thanks to the influence of Yoda, and the Jedi Master, Yoda. Unlike Vader, he, for whom emotional attachments were forbidden, Luke had friends and even family members who loved him and provided him with the support he needed to overcome the dark side.

PROFILE

HOMEPORLD: TATOOINE

SPECIES: HUMAN

GENDER: MALE

HEIGHT: 1.72 METERS

WEAPON: LIGHTSABER, BLASTER

AFFILIATION: JEDI, REBELLION

SKILLS

Strong with the Force, adept with a lightsaber and a formidable pilot, Luke Skywalker is a skilled mechanic, able to fix minor faults on droids and ships. He is able to follow orders, but at the same time follows his own destiny. Skilled at combat, both face-to-face and ship-to-ship, Skywalker's only weaknessess might be his impetuous nature and his unending loyalty to his friends.

75

80

85

80

80

90

85

80

STRENGTH

SPEED

POWER

LEADERSHIP

MOBILITY

LOYALTY

SPECIAL ABILITY

BONUS SKILL

DKA NOVO

HAN

Solo

↓ EM VK7 JV VMK7 JV

THE EARLY YEARS

JONATHAN WILKINS LOOKS AT THE
LIFE OF HAN SOLO LEADING UP TO THAT FATEFUL
ENCOUNTER WITH A JEDI KNIGHT AND HIS
APPRENTICE IN THE SEEDY HIVES OF MOS EISLEY!



HAN

STAR WARS



HAN SOLO
Homeworld: Corellia
Born: 29 BBY
Species: Human
Gender: Male
Height: 1.8 meters
Hair: Brown
Eyes: Brown
Likes: A straight fight
Princess Leia
Dislikes: Sneaking around;
cruelty to Wookiees

Abandoned by his parents, Han Solo was discovered on Corellia by the conman Garris Shrike. He joined Shrike's gang, learning the art of pick-pocketing. He befriended Dewlanna, a Wookiee who served as a cook aboard Shrike's ship, the *Trader's Luck*. She taught him Shyrriwook, the language of the Wookiees. Determined to seek out his parents, Han jumped ship and tracked down his cousin, Threkkan Sal-Solo. It was a disastrous encounter during which Han was betrayed and sold out to Shrike.

Solo became a skilled pilot, and traveled the galaxy, learning many languages. At one point he joined pirates and even raced swoop bikes. He made an enemy out of a Corellian swoop jockey named Dengar when, racing through the crystal swamps of Agilat, Solo forced him to crash into a crystalline plant. Dengar held a grudge against Solo for the rest of his life and later became a bounty hunter contracted to hunt him down.

Solo was caught cheating at cards and sentenced to fight on the penal world of Jubilar. It was during this incident that he first glimpsed the mysterious bounty hunter, Boba Fett.

At the age of 19, Solo managed to escape from the *Trader's Luck* by stowing away in a freighter. He changed his name to "Vyk Draygo" and worked for the Hutt, piloting cargo. He fell in love with Bria Tharen, a slave, and they escaped aboard a stolen yacht with a bounty on their heads.

SERVING THE EMPIRE

Solo planned to join the Imperial Navy but his dreams were shattered when his finances were called into question and Bria left him. Gathering his remaining credits to buy falsified I.D., he registered his application to join the Imperial Navy. But Garris Shrike found him and was ready to collect the bounty on his former protégé! A rival bounty hunter killed Shrike and that the hunter was killed by Solo.

Switching clothes and shooting the man in the face to remove his identity, Solo had killed "Vyk Draygo."

Now a cadet, Solo earned respect and admiration for his skill and ability. He graduated top of his class, but his career was cut short when he rescued Wookiee slaves who were being cruelly treated at the hands of a superior officer. Because of Solo's intervention he was discharged from the fleet. One of the Wookiees, Chewbacca, swore a life debt to his liberator. The two soon became firm friends as they launched into a new life, working outside of Imperial law.

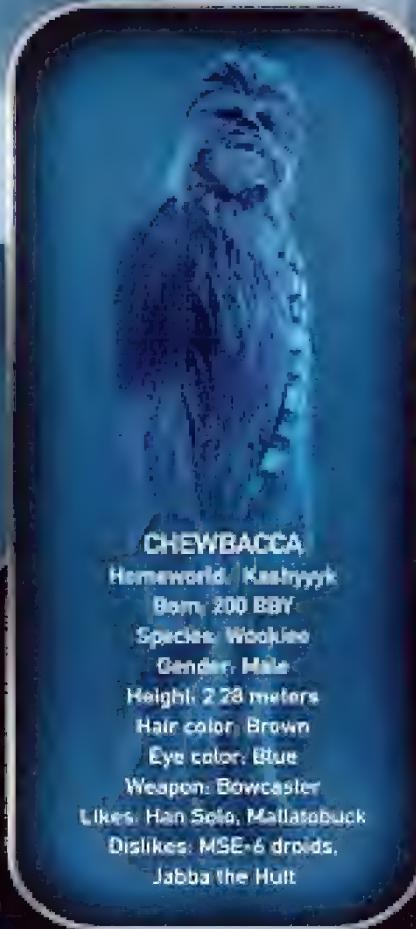
WORKING FOR THE HUTTS

During an encounter on Nar Shaddaa, the Smuggler's Moon, Solo was reunited with Mako Spince, an acquaintance from his days at the Academy. During this time, they mastered the art of flying the Kessel Run and caught the attention of Jabba the Hutt, who hired the smuggler to complete many risky assignments.

However, fate caught up with Solo when a High Priest on the planet Ylesia uncovered evidence that "Vyk Draygo" was alive and well. The Besadii clan of Hutt's hired Boba Fett to bring Solo in. Fett cornered his target on Nar Shaddaa, but Lando Calrissian, pilot of the freighter the *Millennium Falcon*, rescued him. Solo then bought a SoroSuub Starmite that he named the *Bria*.

As the Empire's might grew, the Hutt's were called into question. To counteract an attack that would have destroyed the Smuggler's Moon, the Hutt's bribed Admiral Greelank, the officer in charge of the attack, in order to gain the battle plans. The battle was brief, and the Imperials withdrew. Solo fought valiantly, taking on Soontir Fel, his former classmate who commanded the *Dreadnaught*, *Pride of the Senate*.

After losing the *Bria*, Solo entered a sabacc tournament to raise funds to buy a new ship. He defeated Lando Calrissian



CHEWBACCA

Homeworld: Kashyyyk

Born: 200 BBY

Species: Wookiee

Gender: Male

Height: 2.28 meters

Hair color: Brown

Eye color: Blue

Weapon: Bowcaster

Likes: Han Solo, Mallatobuck

Dislikes: MSE-6 droids,

Jabba the Hutt

A SMUGGLER'S BEST FRIEND!

Cheebacca was born 200 BBY, the son of Attchitcuk. Unlike other Wookiees who rarely left Kashyyyk's lush forests, Chewie sought adventure and exploration. Before long, his travels took him offworld. Chewbacca's future wife Mallatobuck was sly and hid all hints of her true feelings from her would-be suitor. Chewbacca's cousin Jowdri was friends with Malli and helped nurture a relationship. When the Wookiee Tojjevuk began to fight for Malli's affection, Chewie took part in an honor duel with Tojjevuk for her hand. Chewie won when he sent Tojjevuk falling into the Shadowlands of Kashyyyk. Chewie and his father were responsible for building many villages on Kashyyyk. Chewbacca encountered Gai-Ben Ann and Oli-Wan Kenobi, who had been sent by the Galactic Republic to end the conflict on Alaris Prime. Under Jinn's tutelage, Chewbacca successfully lead the colony to military and economic success. Rivalry between families continued to plague Kashyyyk. Tverrko, the father of Tojjevuk sought revenge



for the death of his son. Tyrrko's rage forced Chewie to remain distant from his homeworld, but the Confederacy's invasion of Kashyyyk forced him to return. The clones and their Jedi generals recruited many Wookiees, and Chewbacca became a leading member of the Wookiee resistance to the Confederacy of Independent Systems. During the Battle of Kashyyyk, he oversaw the conflict between the Grand Army of the Republic's 41st Elite Corps and the invading droid forces alongside Tarfful and Jedi general Yoda. Along with Tarfful, he accompanied Jedi General Quinlan Vos in the charge against the enemy.

Following the implementation of Order 66, Chewbacca helped Yoda elude the clone



troopers and escape from the planet.

After the Battle of Kashyyyk, Chewie helped a small band of renegade Jedi led by Olee Starstone search for survivors of Order 66. The Empire caught up with the fleeing Jedi and began their assault. The Wookiees, still haunted by their battle with the Separatists only a month before, resumed fighting in order to defend their homes from the Imperial onslaught.

Darth Vader ordered one of the orbiting Star Destroyers to bombard Kashyyyk with turbolaser fire. Roan Shryne, one of the remaining Jedi, faced off against Vader while the others fled. Chewbacca helped Starstone escape along with a small group of smugglers.

After the fall of Kashyyyk, Chewie joined the crew of the *Brunk Dancer* along with Starstone, as they did their best to sabotage the Empire's efforts whenever possible.



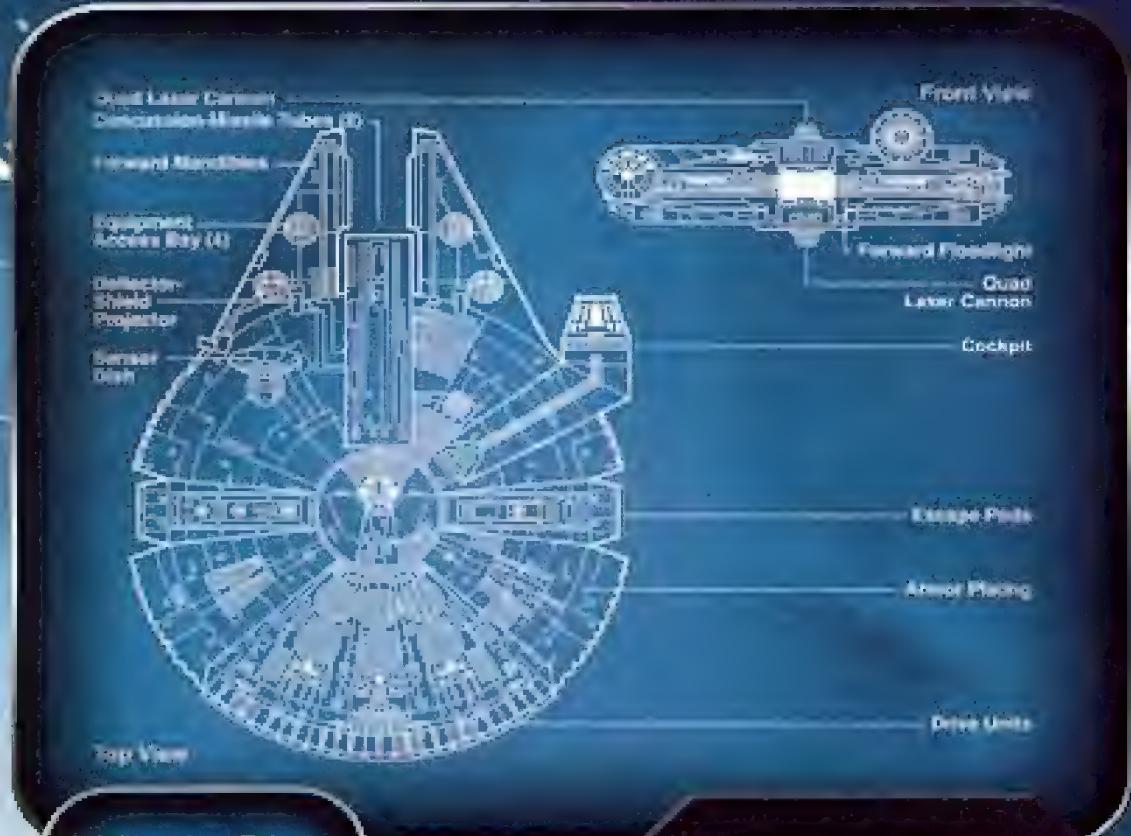
Above: Solo leaves the Imperial Navy.
Right: Lando Calrissian; Bria Thane

and won the *Millennium Falcon*. To celebrate winning their new ship, Han and Chewie flew to Kashyyyk, Chewie's home planet, where the Wookiee married Mallatobuck. Solo found love as well with fellow smuggler Salla Zend, but the relationship was short-lived.

Han joined a team of dissidents in the Corporate Sector including Bollux, a labor droid who had a positronic processor called Blue Max hidden in his chest to investigate disappearances from the sector; they discovered the secret Stars' End Prison. When Chewie was captured, Han infiltrated the prison with his team. The prison break was a success and Stars' End was destroyed. Han and Chewie continued to work

with Bollux and Blue Max for a while. Offered 10,000 credits to make a pick up that turned out to be slaves, Solo sacrificed his payment in favor of freeing them.

It was during a mission to the planet Myrkr that Han and Chewie found the bounty Lando, who had been captured by the Imperial forces to be the Imperial's test ship, Queen of the Resistance. During the search, Han was captured and the chin with a knife, keeping a mark that would never go away. Han and Chewie eventually found the Queen of the Resistance, which had already been destroyed by the Wookiees. Han and Chewie managed to be the last ones to board the Queen of the Resistance, and Blue Max stayed behind to help defend the ship's controls as the Wookiees destroyed the hangar bay, leading to the ship's



Millennium Falcon
Technical specifications:
Length 34.75 meters
Width 25.61 meters
Height/depth 8.27 meters
Max. speed 1,000 km/h



A FAST SHIP!

Built nearly 60 years prior to the Battle of Yavin by the Corellian Engineering Corporation, the Millennium Falcon was a YT-1300 light freighter. The ship was hit by an asteroid that damaged its entire frame. What was left was abandoned in an orbital junkyard near Nar Shaddaa until it was purchased as scrap. The ship was reconstructed, and various systems were updated. Several parts of the ship were relifted with modular components from an old YT-1300p light freighter. It was at this point that the technician restoring the ship named it the Millennium Falcon. After a few years performing basic light freight duties the ship was stolen by a pirate. It passed through the hands of several shady owners before it was acquired by Lando Calrissian. With each owner adding his or her own "special modifications," the ship slowly became one of the fastest ships in the galaxy, well on the way to becoming a legend.

HAN



On their return, Han found that Jabba had become head of the Desilijic clan and was determined to destroy the rival Reisadii clan. He contacted Bria Tharen, who had become a key player in the forces of resistance against the evil Empire. By wiping out the Besadii owned spice factories, the wily Hutt would ruin his rivals and leave the Rebels free to sell the spice to fund their cause.

Solo and Tharen fell in love again, but Tharen double-crossed him for the Rebellion and took the spice. Solo's fellow smugglers believed that he had

turned traitor and severed all contact with him.

Solo and Chewie made the Kessel Run for Jabba, shattering speed records for the journey, but dumped an expensive shipment to avoid unwanted Imperial attention, angering Jabba. Solo was forced to go to Tatooine to find enough credits to pay Jabba for the loss.

Boba Fett gave Solo the message that Bria Tharen was killed while acquiring the plans for something that would figure heavily in Solo's future: the Death Star!

TO BE CONTINUED!

1991**REAL LIFE
WORLD NEWS****JANUARY 16**

The U.S. launches Operation Desert Storm, beginning air strikes against Iraq in the first armed skirmishes of the Gulf War.

JUNE 12

Boris Yeltsin is elected president of Russia prior to the final breakup of the Soviet Union.

SEPTEMBER 19

Two German tourists find the well-preserved "Iceman" mummy in the Alps. The body is later found to be more than 5,000 years old.

NOVEMBER 7

LA Lakers basketball star Magic Johnson shocks the sports world with the news that he is HIV-positive.

1991**REAL LIFE
ENTERTAINMENT****MARCH 25**

Dances With Wolves, starring and directed by Kevin Costner, wins Best Picture at the 63rd Academy Awards.

JULY 3

Terminator 2: Judgment Day debuts, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and directed by James Cameron. It would go on to become 1991's top-grossing movie.

AUGUST 13

The Super Nintendo Entertainment System is released in the U.S., shipping to stores with the game *Super Mario World*.

SEPTEMBER 17

Home Improvement appears on the ABC network for the first of its eight seasons.

A LONG TIME AGO....

1991

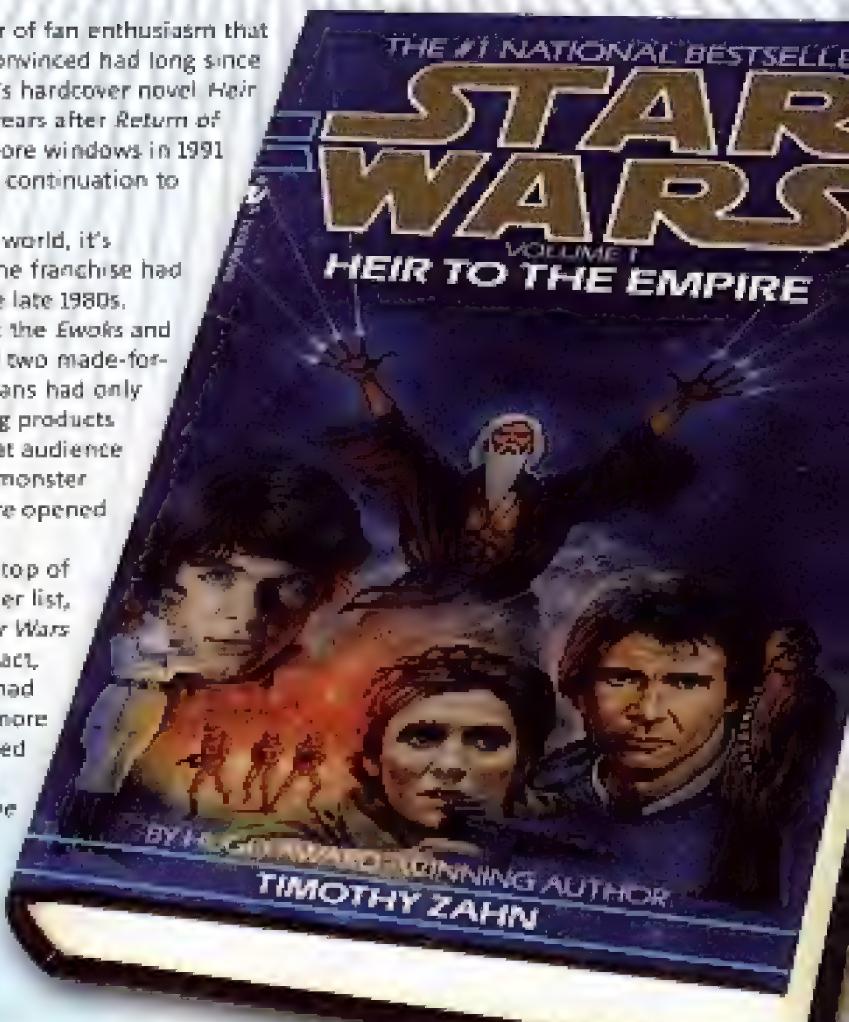
THE
BIG
EVENT

HEIR TO THE EMPIRE DEBUTS!

It tapped into a reservoir of fan enthusiasm that many observers were convinced had long since dried up. Timothy Zahn's hardcover novel *Heir to the Empire*, set five years after *Return of the Jedi*, appeared in bookstore windows in 1991 to thrill fans with an official continuation to their beloved movie trilogy.

In today's Star Wars-filled world, it's difficult to remember that the franchise had gone into hibernation in the late 1980s, after a few spin-off projects: the *Ewoks* and *Droids* animated series, and two made-for-TV *Ewok* movies. Hardcore fans had only *West End Games*' roleplaying products to feed their hunger, but that audience was relatively small, so the monster success of *Heir to the Empire* opened a lot of eyes.

The book rocketed to the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list, proving to doubters that Star Wars fandom had never died. In fact, it was a sleeping giant that had just rolled out of bed! Two more books in what would be called the *Thrawn Trilogy* followed (*Dark Force Rising* in '92, *The Last Command* in '93) and *Heir* mania indirectly inspired the blizzard of toys, games, books, and comics of the modern Expanded Universe. ♦



KEEPING THE FLAME BURNING

THE ROLEPLAYING PRODUCTS OF WEST END GAMES



West End Games quietly acquired the roleplaying license to *Star Wars* in 1987. Although the company produced gaming materials for the dice-and-character-sheet set, non-gamers soon found that the WEG books were a treasure trove of information on their favorite galaxy. With titles like *Imperial Sourcebook*, *Rebel Alliance Sourcebook*, and *Tatooine Manhunt*, WEG provided a wealth of species names, new ship classes, and other vital underpinnings of the fictional setting, many of which were incorporated into Timothy Zahn's *Heir to the Empire*.

DARK EMPIRE

Heir to the Empire wasn't the only new *Star Wars* tale in 1991. The six-issue comic *Dark Empire*, by writer Tom Veitch and artist Cam Kennedy, showed a bleak post-Jedi galaxy ruled by Emperor Palpatine in a cloned body. Originally scheduled for a late '80s release from Marvel, *Dark Empire* instead became the first *Star Wars* comic published by Dark Horse.



NEW ACQUISITIONS

GRAND ADMIRAL THRAWN AND MARA JADE JOIN THE STAR WARS FAMILY

The out-of-the-gate bestseller status of *Heir to the Empire* can be attributed to pent-up *Star Wars* demand, but the series' enduring popularity is the result of Timothy Zahn's skill at crafting a compelling adventure in the galaxy far, far away. Two of Zahn's most enduring creations—blue-skinned Imperial genius Grand Admiral Thrawn and Mara Jade, the Emperor's ex-assassin—made their debut in *Heir*, earning their place alongside icons like Han, Luke, and Leia. Both have since appeared as action figures and have starred in comics and videogames. Mara Jade was portrayed in live-action photos by Shannon McRandle (formerly Baksa) while her story in the Expanded Universe saw her marrying Luke Skywalker and raising a son, Ben.



MONTH BY MONTH

JANUARY: West End Games releases *Star Wars Roleplaying Games*, a tabletop game that wins the 1991 Origins International Game Award for Best New Medium Rules.

FEBRUARY: U.S. President George H.W. Bush asks Congress for \$4.5 billion for the space-based anti-missile defense system that becomes known as *Star Wars*.

MARCH: United Nations copies of the original *Star Wars* newspaper comics by Al Williamson and Archie Goodwin make their way into collectors' hands in a three-volume hardbound set.



APRIL: Sir Alec Guinness (Obi-Wan Kenobi) celebrates his 77th birthday on April 2.

MAY: The *Star Wars* MUSH is created by fan programmers, becoming the first *Star Wars*-themed, multi-user, text-based online game.



JUNE: West End Games releases a number of products including *Cracken's Rebel Field Guide* and the *Death Star Technical Companion*.

JULY: "The Last Starfighter" by He-Man artist De La Soul claim the chart, featuring the lyrics "Take me to your leader to my leader playfully giving me to get me my book they force like Luke Skywalker."



AUGUST: *Star Wars* makes its debut on handheld platforms (including Sega's Game Gear) with a simple one-directional side-scrolling adventure.

SEPTEMBER: Owning a debt to *Star Wars*, the animated series *Bucky O'Hare and the Toad Wars* launches, with scripts by *Star Wars* comic scribe Larry Hama.



OCTOBER: *Star Wars* for the Nintendo Entertainment System captures fans with fun side-scrolling and space combat sequences.

NOVEMBER: Issue #45 of the *Lucasfilm Fan Club Magazine* is mailed to subscribers, featuring a story on the *Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* TV series.



DECEMBER: The first issue of Dark Horse Comics' *Dark Empire* hits shelves, ushering in the second era of *Star Wars* comics.

WORDS: JASON FRY

STAR
WARS

THE MAN BEHIND THE NEW MILLENNIUM FALCON

MILLENNIUM MAN

TOYMAKING LEGEND MARK BOUDREAU'S DESIGN WORK ON THE ORIGINAL KENNER MILLENNIUM FALCON MADE IT THE MUST-OWN TOY OF ITS DAY. SO IT WAS ONLY RIGHT THAT, 30 YEARS LATER, HE RETURNED TO MAKE A FEW SPECIAL MODIFICATIONS.



"YOU'RE NOT GOING TO FLY THIS THING AROUND; YOU'LL BE LUCKY TO GET IT FROM ROOM TO ROOM!"

—Mark Boudreux

No vehicle from the *Star Wars* saga is more iconic than the Millennium Falcon. Han Solo's saucer-shaped freighter is the fastest hunk of junk in the galaxy, dodging asteroids and TIE fighters with equal aplomb. It's also a key locale in the saga, the place where R2-D2 learned to let the Wookiee win, where Luke Skywalker took his first tentative steps into the larger world of the Jedi, and where Han finally won a kiss from Princess Leia. The Falcon is a quirky character in its (or, if you prefer, "her") own right, with secret compartments and peek-a-boo laser cannons, a balky starter and hyperdrive, and a dialect protocol droids deride as "most peculiar."

The Falcon is an icon in the toy world, too. The original Kenner toy appeared under countless Christmas trees in the late 1970s and early 1980s, then returned with new decoration and electronics to help anchor Hasbro's new line of *Star Wars* toys in the 1990s. And now it's back in spectacular fashion. At nearly three feet long, Hasbro's new Falcon could easily be mistaken for a movie prop.

The two Falcons hit toy-store shelves nearly 30 years apart, but they share a crucial connection: Hasbro veteran Mark Boudreux, something of an icon himself in the toy industry, played a key role in both designs.

A RISKY VENTURE?

The Millennium Falcon is a legend, but Boudreux first saw the ship as part of a project from a movie with uncertain prospects as a toy line.

It was also a chance for a young co-op employee to prove his mettle. In 1977, Boudreux was a 21-year-old industrial-design major at the University of Cincinnati working at Kenner's

preliminary design department, which brainstormed and mocked up toys before turning them over to the toy company's production department.

Boudreux recalls being part of a group called to a Kenner conference room to take a look at a potential property: an epic space-fantasy film by a maverick California director. "We just went nuts; we'd never seen anything like it before," he says. But their employer didn't necessarily share the designers' enthusiasm. "Back then, doing things with Hollywood was a fledgling undertaking," Boudreux says, noting that TV properties such as *The Six Million Dollar Man* were considered better bets than movies because kids could see them weekly.

When Kenner made the decision to produce *Star Wars* toys, preliminary design work on the Falcon fell to Boudreux. "They said, 'Hey Mark, you want to work on this big vehicle?' I said 'Sure.' We thought that *Star Wars* was pretty cool, but it didn't have the 30 years of history we have now."

In those pre-computer days, the preliminary-design team had its own model shop, complete with vacuum machines, lathes, and milling machines. Boudreux's task was to figure out the Falcon's scale, what play features it should include, and

to handcraft a rough model of the toy for Kenner management.

"We knew the figures would be the 3 3/4" scale," he says. "Based on the size of the figures, I looked at the photographs we had from Lucasfilm and figured out how big the vehicle could be."

Boudreux deflects attempts to give him credit for the original Falcon, noting that Jack Farrah did the production development. The original, released in 1979, gave kids a chance to recreate key scenes from *A New Hope*. Han and Chewie could fit in the cockpit and a figure could man the topside laser cannon from a rotating chair in the hold. Figures could be seated at the chess table while others could hide in a secret smuggling compartment. Luke could practice his lightsaber skills with a remote suspended on a thread. (Vintage Falcons aren't hard to find, but good luck getting one with all the pieces of that remote!)

HASBRO TAKES CHARGE

Hasbro acquired Kenner in 1991 (the Cincinnati office closed in 2000), and reused the original Falcon mold, with updated sounds and decoration, when it relaunched the *Star Wars* toy line in 1995 (another update of the ship would follow in 2004).

According to Boudreux, *Star Wars* fans



ESSENTIAL STAR WARS 2008

IT'S NOT JUST HASBRO'S SPECTACULAR MILLENNIUM FALCON THAT DESERVES TO LAND ON COLLECTORS' ALREADY HEAVY SHELVES!

CLONE
WARS

ESSENTIAL WATCH

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

The movie that ignited a new phase in the saga, packed with unmissable special features, available on DVD and Blu-Ray



Right: The CAD implementation of the Falcon.
Below: a cardboard and foamcore vision



owe Farrah and his colleagues thanks: they took such good care of the original tooling for the classic Kenner toys that they could be reused to produce vehicles in the mid-1990s. And that, he says, was a big reason Hasbro stuck with the 3 3/4" scale when revisiting the line.

"If it wasn't for the folks who took the time to crate the tools and put them away properly, we would have had a very difficult time relaunching Star Wars," he says.

When Star Wars figures returned after a decade's absence, Boudreault began to think about what a new version of Han Solo's ship might look like. A new ship would let him draw on all three movies in the original trilogy, and reflect the fact that "technology had caught up with what we wanted to do."

The argument for a new Falcon received a major boost a few years ago when Hasbro saw that the carbide-steel tools for the old mold were starting to break down. "The thought of not having a *Millennium Falcon* just didn't sit very well with us," Boudreault says. "So we proposed the Falcon that we'd always wanted to do."

In early 2006, Boudreault and other Hasbro designers sat down to discuss the new vehicle. A key question was size. Boudreault says the team knew it couldn't be four feet long (though truth be told, he still sounds a tad rueful about that), and discussed the case for a small, medium and large Falcon. Taking a page from Goldilocks, they "decided middle was just right" and made their case, complete with a foamcore model, to Hasbro's upper ranks, which gave them the green light.

With the project a go, the team made a wish list of features. Boudreault says he

ESSENTIAL READS:

DEL REY

Star Wars: The Dark Lord Trilogy

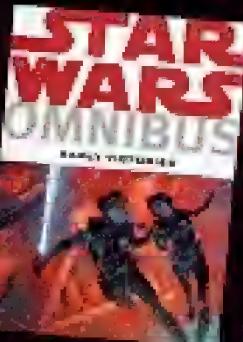
James Luceno and Haden Blackman

Three gripping novels in one essential volume chronicling the fall of the Republic, the creation of the Empire and the transformation of Anakin Skywalker into Darth Vader.



DK Publishing
**Star Wars
Omnibus:
Early Victories**
various authors

A brilliant anthology of comics detailing the earliest stories of the Rebellion, including some previously uncollected tales.



MORE ➤



BACK TO THE FUTURE

knew "exactly what I wanted in there." But he also knew the new Falcon would be a challenge: "It had to be a 10-pound vehicle in a five-pound bag."

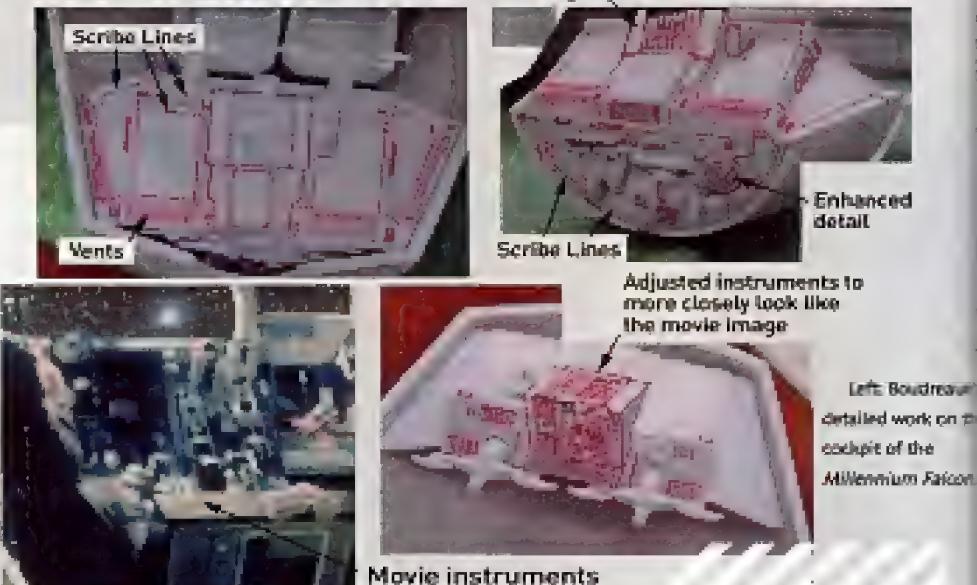
A given for Boudreux was that the new Falcon would include features not seen until *The Empire Strikes Back*, and so not available for the original. Taking Episode V into account had other benefits, too. Fans of the movies know that the Falcon seen in *Empire* has an additional landing gear, but they may not know the practical reason for that: Boudreux says that when Lucasfilm decided to build a full-sized Falcon set for *Empire*, it discovered that the original design couldn't support its own weight.

Mimicking the look of *Empire's* Falcon meant including the additional landing gear. That made the ship thicker, which allowed Hasbro to not only include play features such as the smuggling compartments and the maintenance hatch seen in *Empire*, but also to move them forward. In the old Falcon, Boudreux says, "We had to put things in the back. Now they can be in the right place."

The result, formally unveiled last summer at Comic-Con, is a big, beautiful bruiser of a toy. The new Falcon is stunningly detailed and painted, and some 30 per cent larger than its predecessor. Two quad-laser turrets now guard against enemy fighters, with *Empire's* pop-out cannon awaiting unwary snowtroopers. The ship boasts an impressive array of sounds and dialogue taken from the movies. The cockpit fits four figures in authentic-looking chairs that swivel, and Han and Chewbacca (included, by the way) have steering yokes that actually move. The sturdy boarding ramp lowers at the push of a button, with lights and sounds.

The interior features not only include the familiar dejarik table and

COCKPIT CONSOLE DETAILS 6/3/07



Left: Boudreux detailed work on the cockpit of the Millennium Falcon.

Movie instruments

training remote, but also Han's console and seat, the wraparound acceleration couch, a stretch of hallway and a medical bay. Everything about the ship is minutely detailed, from the walls of the forward hold to the ribs of the Falcon's ring corridor.

Asked about that detail work, Boudreux notes the role Computer Aided Design (CAD) programs now play in the toy making process. Back in the 1970s Jack Farrah and his team had to transcribe details from Lucasfilm photos onto massive sheets of paper, craft patterns in wood at two or four times actual size and then send them overseas to be manufactured. Boudreux praises "the diligence and craftsmanship of the people who did that," but it's a bygone era. CAD programs now allow designers to get an accurate 3D preview of a toy.

"We can look at the details and look at the model before we commit," he says. "It's much more difficult to change a wooden pattern than a CAD pattern."

This time around, the designers also had access to a wealth of reference photos showing the Falcon's interior, not to mention models from Lucasfilm's archives. However, Boudreux's keen eye also helped. Where reference photos were inadequate, he says, "I relied on my experience and knowledge about what Star Wars detail looked like." At one point, he recalls, he was huddled in the corner of an airport departure lounge away from fans' prying eyes, sketching additional details on designs for everything from the hold's interior to the cockpit dashboard.

One new feature is a wedge-shaped mini-ship stashed behind the Falcon's portside docking ring; think of it as a modern-day mini-ring, a series of Kenner toys also designed by Boudreux.

ESSENTIAL COLLECTIBLES:

Sideshow Collectibles
Militaries of Star Wars
212th Attack Battalion
Utapau Clone Trooper

This 12-inch, fully articulated figure comes complete with clone trooper carbine blaster and long rifle.



Sideshow Collectibles
Padmé Amidala - Ilum Mission

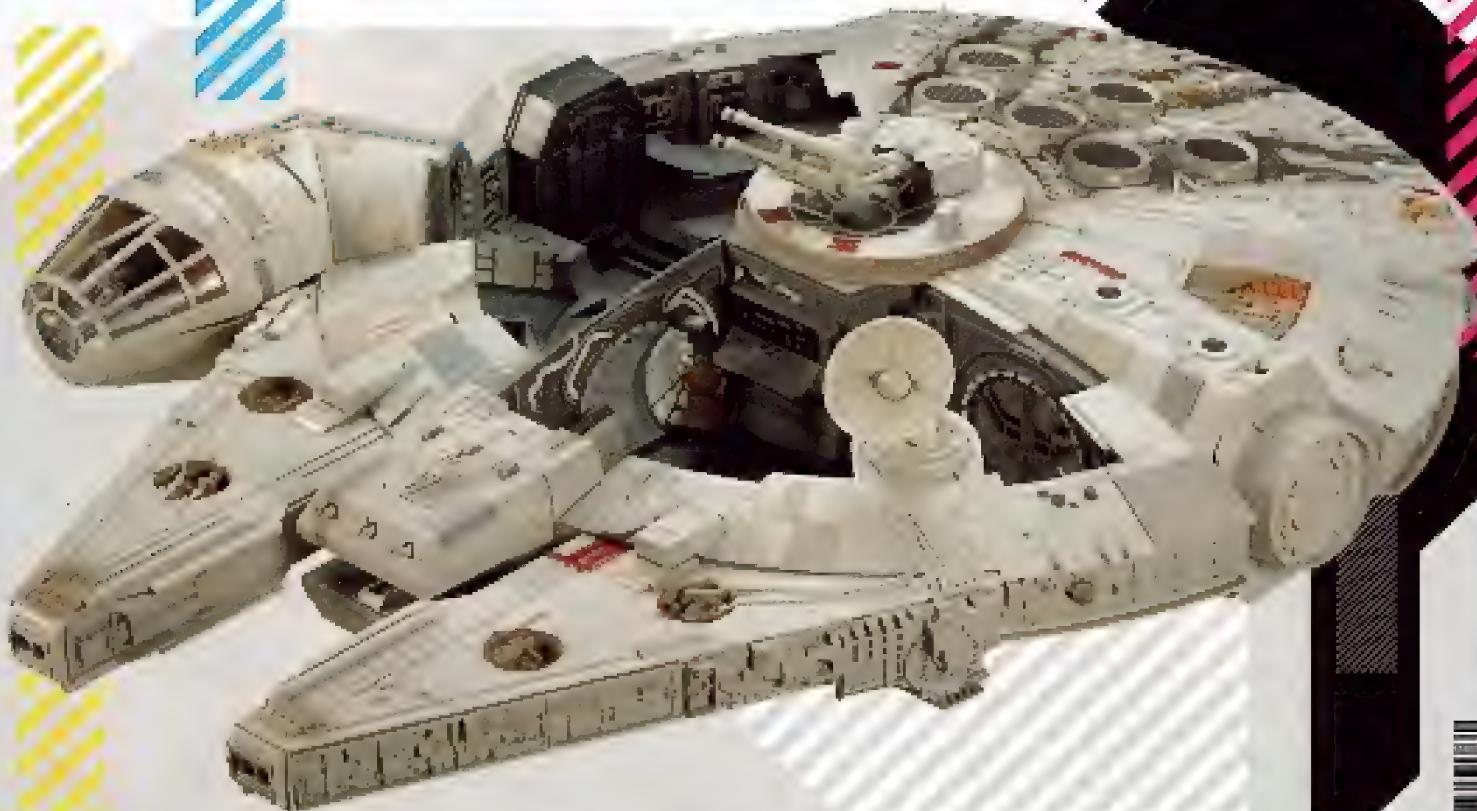
This snow bunny version of the Star Wars Expanded Universe Padmé is a fan favorite. Check out her hooded snow-suit and fur-trimmed cap!

ESSENTIAL STAR WARS 2008

ESSENTIAL PLAY: Star Wars: The Force Unleashed

Available across all platforms, the videogame event of the decade proved to be well worth the wait.





The mini-ship came about, Boudreux says, because the team considered the heft of the new Falcon and realized that "you're not going to fly this thing around; you'll be lucky to get it from room to room." That wasn't a big problem for a toy that was really more of a playset than a vehicle, he says, "but it was a little bit of a problem. There had to be some way to fly some part of the Falcon around." The mini-ship's design echoes that of the Falcon, with its twin forward mandibles, and can fit a Wookiee figure.

"It was always there; you just never saw it in the films," Boudreux grins.

Asked what features didn't make it from his wish list to the finished Falcon, Boudreux has few regrets, saying that the

team only had to make some edits to dialogue from the movies included on the toy's computer chip. That chip stores lines from the movies, sound effects, and the logic required to ensure that certain sounds are tied to specific buttons you push or features you engage, a far cry from the gear-driven *Millennium Falcon* clicker that produced the original Falcon's noises.

So can he imagine a Falcon 3.0 one day? Boudreux quickly warms to the subject, musing about what he could create with a Falcon that could be taller. (His short list: a more proportional cockpit, a second gunner station and opening up the back of the ship.) But he adds that, "we feel pretty good about the new version."

And he does mean "we," gently correcting the record when congratulations are offered for "this" ship by noting the contributions of many others, from the old Kenner production department and people at Lucasfilm to other Hasbro designers and the toymaker's partners in China's factories.

"From a personal point of view, the accolades and the recognition are very much appreciated," Boudreux says. "But it takes more than just me to accomplish this stuff."

"I think the very first *Millennium Falcon* was perfect for its time," he says. "Now that we've had the chance to make this version of the Falcon, I hope it's considered perfect for its time."

LEGO MagnaGuard Starfighter

This specialized starfighter, captained by General Grievous' elite guard, the silent and deadly MagnaGuard Droids, includes a hidden missile launcher with flick-action rockets!



LEGO Republic Fighter Tank

The Republic's latest weapon in the Clone Wars is this heavy armored, missile-launching, TX-100S hover-tank. Perfect for all your intergalactic and playroom missions.

Kotobukiya Bounty Hunters Collection

The ultimate hunters, captured and preserved for your enjoyment!



STAR WARS

BLASTER



PAGE 72

62 COLLECTING

HEROES FOR SALE!

HAN SOLO COLLECTIBLES

PACKED FULL OF THE
LATEST STUFF FROM THE
STAR WARS UNIVERSE

A circular logo featuring a Boba Fett character holding a blaster, with the words "BOUNTY HUNTERS" in a stylized font below it.

PAGE 70

76 CLASSIC SCENE

MEET BOBA FETT:
BUT IS HE
FRIEND OR FOE?

57 BOOKS

THE MAKING OF
THE STAR WARS
ENCYCLOPEDIA
REVEALED!

COMICS 59 ASK LOBOT 58
TOYS 67 AND MUCH MORE!



"THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A GOOD BLASTER AT YOUR SIDE, KID!"

BOOKS

STEVE SANSWEET AND A BAND OF STAR WARS SAGES
BRING ORDER TO THE GALAXY WORDS: JASON FRY

THE TALE OF TEAM ENCYCLOPEDIA AND THE VERY BIG SAGA

What weighs 22 pounds and can answer just about any question about *Star Wars* that you might have?

Yoda? Well maybe, but Dagobah is a very long way away. A better bet would be *The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia* (Del Rey, \$125), the new three-volume, 1,224-page resource written by Stephen J. Sansweet and the group of *Star Wars* experts he calls "Team Encyclopedia."

The Complete Encyclopedia is an all-new version of Sansweet's much-loved *Star Wars Encyclopedia*, which covered what was then a much smaller saga in 354 pages back in 1998. (It, in turn, was an update of the second edition of *A Guide to the Star Wars Universe*, written by Bill Slavicsek and published by Del Rey in 1994—and updated for a third edition in 2000. The first-edition *Guide*, compiled by Raymond L. Velasco, appeared in 1984.)

A lot has happened regarding a galaxy far, far away since 1998—three prequels; the exploration of the once-mysterious Clone Wars through comics, novels and TV shows; fascinating details about ancient *Star Wars* history; and the events of the *New Jedi Order* and *Legacy of the Force* sagas. But

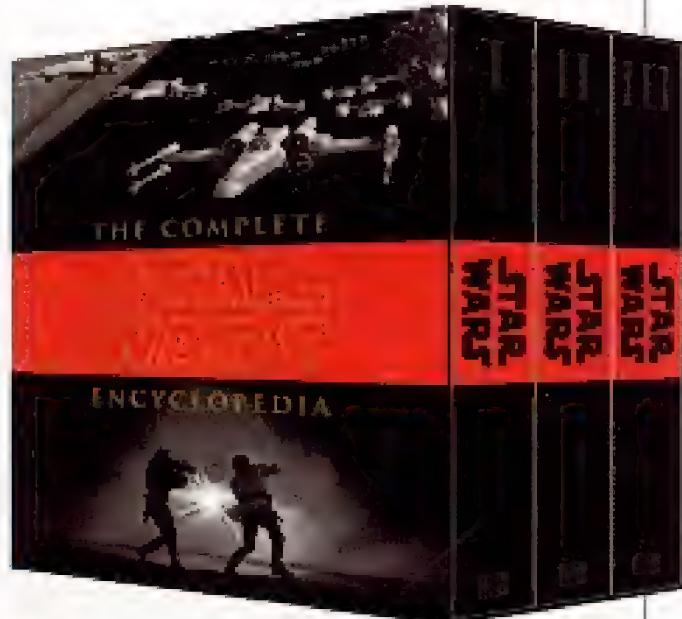


Sansweet cheerfully admits he didn't quite realize what he was in for when he decided to tackle an update of the encyclopedia.

"If I had any idea how this would develop, I might have been too practical—or panicked—to take it on," he confesses.

Sansweet embarked on the project with his Lucasfilm colleague Pablo Hidalgo, who had offered extensive help fact-checking the first *Encyclopedia*. But he notes that, "It wasn't until we really got into it that the light bulbs went off over our heads."

When it became apparent that the project might be four times the size of the original, Del Rey editor Keith Clayton decided to upgrade the work from a lavish two-volume set to an even more expansive three (with gorgeous art), while Sansweet summoned "Team Encyclopedia."



R3



The first new member of the team was Bob Vitas, whose *Completely Unofficial Star Wars Encyclopedia* (CUSWE) was a long-respected resource in cyberspace. "My first reaction was that the note was a hoax, so I did some investigation on my end," Vitas recalls with amusement. "I eventually figured it was really Steve, so I replied that I was interested in helping any way I could." Veteran *Star Wars* author Dan Wallace was next up, followed by Lucasfilm's Mary Franklin and Josh Kyshins and finally freelance writer and *Star Wars* fan Chris Cassidy.

"And I still worked until 2 or 3 a.m. almost every day for about four months," Sansweet says. "On weekends, I'd easily spend 16 or more hours a day on the book."

The sources for the book include the first

BOOKS continues next page.



BOOKS (continued)

Encyclopedia (which was almost completely rewritten); LucasFilm's internal continuity database (the Holocron); CUSWE; and manuscripts and notes for projects still in the pipeline. But the book wasn't just dedicated to a new decade of *Star Wars* tales: Sansweet notes that, "We've also included whole categories that were left out last time: the Marvel comics and the Nelvana animated series, for example. Fans' attitudes have changed a lot in a decade. Besides, authors of our novels have brought back a lot of the characters, planets and other things originally developed in that first comic series—that's where the Dark Lady Lumiya came from."

Obviously, the prequels have changed much of what we know about the central characters and events of the original trilogy—the entries for Darth Vader and Anakin Skywalker read very differently



CLIP CITY'S DODGERTON:
LAST OFFICER ANSWERS ALL
YOUR STAR WARS QUESTIONS
AS RELATED TO LUCASFILM CIGS



In *Revenge of the Sith*, I heard there are two versions of the scene where Obi-Wan and Padmé greet each other on the veranda at Padmé's apartment. One version has them greeting each other with a platonic kiss. The other version is the one we see in the film—the one without a kiss. Why wasn't the version with the kiss used?

—Bob Vitale

Several scenes that were filmed but ultimately cut from *Revenge of the Sith* show Obi-Wan and Padmé greeting each other on the veranda at Padmé's apartment. In one scene, Anakin notes that Obi-Wan had recently been at Padmé's apartment, and Obi-Wan does not deny he was there. This may have been a shared secret between the two.

Anakin and Padmé had arranged for Obi-Wan to stay because Anakin had been told that she had damaged him by bringing Obi-Wan to Mustafar to kill him.

ASK A GEEK



than they did in 1998. The same goes for the Expanded Universe books set long after *Return of the Jedi*—the biographies of Han and Leia Organa Solo have changed considerably as well.

"One other major difference between this edition and the first is the design and the art," Sansweet says. "Each letter begins with a full-page illustration. There was so much more to choose from, the vast majority of it in color. And there are some great stand-alone illustrated charts showing, for example, all the major Darths or a selection of the top several dozen lightsaber hilts."

Sansweet says writing the *Encyclopedia* taught him a tremendous amount about the saga's nooks and crannies, including just



SIZING UP STAR WARS

In today's world, encyclopedia makers face competition from the constantly updated, online encyclopedias put together by thousands of contributors—*The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia* has Wikipedia. *The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia* has *Wookieepedia*.

Now a veteran of both kinds of encyclopedias, Bob Vitale notes that, "Fan works will always have to take a back seat to the official encyclopedia, because the official encyclopedia is the definitive source of information—at a specific point in time."

But he also notes that it's just not cost-effective to put out a new official encyclopedia every year or so. "This is where the fan works come in," he says. "They help bridge the gap between official encyclopedias, keeping the

community up to date on the latest developments in the Star Wars universe."

Asked about the relationship between an official printed encyclopedia and online efforts, Sansweet calls *Wookieepedia*, CUSWE and StarWars.com's Databank "amazing resources," adding, "From what I've seen, *Wookieepedia* is a superbly run resource and the community does a wonderful job self-policing and self-editing. And that's partly because of the kind of people that make up Star Wars fans. But absolutely there is still room—and I think always will be room—for a printed resource like *The Complete Star Wars Encyclopedia*, which comes with the imprimatur of Lucasfilm. The original *Encyclopedia*—even though it is now dated—has consistently sold well over the last decade."



how many aliases the main characters have used, reports of their deaths that proved to be greatly exaggerated, and numerous in-jokes. (Take "yaastimskizzie," defined as an Ithorian creature slowly cooked as a delicacy and often served with ice-cold Harmon Kizzibrew—that's two baseball references in one shot.) As for its bizarre spellings (Zzannirul the Zanibar leader, anybody?). Sansweet says that, "I broke Microsoft spell-check! I would get maybe a quarter or a third of a way into a letter and get a pop-up note to the effect that the spell-check was being terminated because there were too many strange words to monitor!"

Sansweet says that "I think there will always be a place for books. By 2018, we'll be in our 10th season of animated *The Clone Wars* and have perhaps six seasons of the live-action series—and whatever else George Lucas might come up with. There will be hundreds of new sources: books, video games, comics and online. But every letter will need its own volume: *The Star Wars Encyclopedia Bookshelf!*"

COMICS

AN ONLINE PREVIEW SETS THE STAGE FOR *STAR WARS: DARK TIMES* "BLUE HARVEST" WORDS: DANIEL WALLACE

ONE-MAN SHOWDOWN



The latest *Dark Times* story arc won't debut until April, but fans don't have to wait until spring to get a peek. In January and February, Dark Horse will release a two-part introduction story exclusively on MySpace.com/DarkHorsePresents. The "Blue Harvest" story arc (*Dark Times* issues #13-17) will tell the tale of fugitive Jedi Dass Jennir as he uses his powers to wipe out a hive of scum and villainy. The online preview will show the calm before the blood-spattered storm.

"The online story came about at the last minute, but it was a relief to me," explains

writer Mick Harrison. "I was having a difficult time fitting all of the necessary information into the first issue of the arc, so having the extra space to show those events rather than just having the characters talk about them was a godsend."

Artist Doug Wheatley (*Revenge of the Sith*, *Aliens: Apocalypse—The Destroying Angels*) admits the decision to launch with an online comic came as a surprise, but it was a happy one. "There is never enough room in a comic to cover everything you want to say about your characters. Such is the bane of

COMICS continues next page



COMICS *continued...*

a storyteller. The online preview allowed us to set up our story arc in the way we thought it should be done."

Harrison is also grateful for the chance to bring fresh fans into the fold. "Doug Wheatley's artwork is amazing, but there are many comics readers who aren't aware of what they're missing," he says. "The MySpace appearance will give them a free look."

All this leads up to a *Dark Times* story arc that draws on both Western and samurai influences. "Doug and I discovered that we were both fans of the Sergio Leone Western *A Fistful of Dollars*, and I was able to turn Doug onto Akira Kurosawa's *Kojimbo*, on which *Fistful* is clearly based," says Harrison. "We got to talking about doing a story with a similar theme and action—one man putting it all on the line to destroy an evil that has taken over a town. Both of those films owe a lot to Dashiell Hammett's novel *Red Harvest*. I spent the better part of a year hitting my head against the wall trying to come up with a story that could work in *Dark Times*." Hammett's *Red Harvest* made it nigh-impossible for Harrison to refrain from a *Star Wars* in-joke: recalling the fake title used during production of *Return of the Jedi*, he christened his story "Blue Harvest."

Artist Wheatley had his own challenges, from weird worlds to awful aliens. The main



setting is the planet Telerath, which had been introduced in the comic *Knights of the Old Republic* but set in a completely different era of *Star Wars* history. "It was our job to 'age' the planet, since the drawings depicted Telerath as it was 4,000 years earlier," he says. "The real challenge of working on the visuals is to make them fit into the existing visual language of the films and the era you're working with. You really have to pay attention to all the visual cues and the vast amount of work that has been done previously."

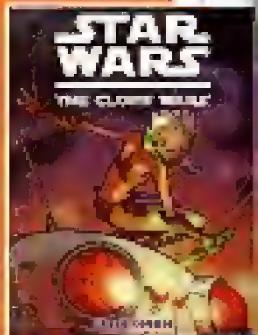
Wheatley relishes aliens, and the *Star Wars* galaxy has some of the best. "Blue Harvest" features two warring alien factions, each equally as bizarre: the Chagrians and the Tsur. "The only Chagrian that has appeared in the films is the character Mas Amedda," points out Wheatley. "To our knowledge we have never seen the females of the species, so one needed to be designed. Jan Duursema [*Star Wars: Legacy*] and I teamed up to develop the look of the female Chagrian."

The T'surr are even more bizarre, with faces that resemble messy explosions. "I personally love working with non-human characters," enthuses Wheatley. "There is a challenge in making them as relatable to the readers as the humans in the story, and yet there is room for some caricature that one might not get away with when dealing with humans."

Harrison floats the possibility that Jemmir's extermination mission might prove the path to his redemption. "The story is about Jemmir trying to put his life back together and find his place in the galaxy," says Harrison. "He did some bad things for good reasons in the first *Dark Times* arc [available as the trade paperback *Star Wars: Dark Times—The Path to Nowhere*] and none of it helped him or his friends in the end. Now he has to figure out, does he keep trying to be a Jedi in a galaxy that has turned its back? Or does he abandon his ideals and find some new way to survive?" 

NOW THIS IS PODRACING!

ANAKIN AND AHSOKA GO UNDERCOVER IN *CLONE WARS* V.2 — CRASH COURSE



FUTURE FIGHTS

**GALACTIC POWERS
FIGHT FOR CONTROL
IN *STAR WARS LEGACY*
VOL. 6—ALLIANCE**



COLLECTING

IT'S NOT JUST THE GALAXY'S FINEST BOUNTY HUNTERS WHO ARE AFTER HAN SOLO. FIND OUT WHY COLLECTORS HAVE HIM IN THEIR SIGHTS AS WELL! WORDS & PICTURES: GUS LOPEZ

CORELLIAN COLLECTION

Han Solo has always been one of the most popular characters in the *Star Wars* saga and some licensees have rewarded that popularity with an abundance of weird or difficult to find items. Han was among the first 12 action figures issued by Kenner in 1978; when preserved on their original cards, these are known to collectors as "12-backs." The Han figure was also one of the first *Star Wars* action figure variations, a by-product of the toy production process that drives obsessive collectors to the brink of insanity. The first version of Han featured a small head, although it didn't seem small at the time in relation to other figures. Finding a head sculpt that was more fitting to the size of Han Solo's ego, the figure was soon updated with a larger head that was thought to be more accurate. The small head Han is more limited since it's from the earliest runs, but both versions have roughly equivalent value on Kenner 12-back cards.

Many Han Solo action figures sold over the years became top sellers. What collectors may not know is that some high quality Han Solo action figure concepts were passed over in the early years and never made it to market. One example is the large-size "Han Solo in Hoth" outfit. Kenner had produced a line of large-sized

action figures for the release of *Star Wars* and had plans to continue the series for *The Empire Strikes Back*. Kenner proposed updating the large-size figure of Han to wear his Hoth outfit. However the unparalleled success of the *Star Wars* small action figure line was beginning to affect sales of other Kenner *Star Wars* toys including the large-size figures, so the toy was cancelled. Prior to cancellation, Kenner made a small number of prototypes of "Hoth Han," which included a hand-stitched parka, pants, scarf, and gloves, newly molded boots, a repainted belt with holster, and some goggles Kenner had repurposed from an earlier *Six Million Dollar Man* outfit. Packaging samples of this toy also were made, and this elusive "Hoth Han" was shown at Toy Fair and appeared in Kenner trade literature.

Years later, Kenner issued a set of coins as a premium with the original "Power of the Force" action figure line. Han Solo was minted in several images, including Han in Bespin fatigues, his Hoth outfit, and frozen in carbonite. There was also a fourth coin for the Han Solo in trenchcoat action figure that came in two variations, originally minted as "Hans Solo", and later corrected. The rarer earlier version is considerably more valuable and has been known to be sold for around \$250-500.





THE GENTLE TOUCH

Gentle Giant produced a statue of Han Solo as an animated character for its popular series of cartoon likenesses of the classic Star Wars characters. Although this version of Han Solo never appeared in any book, film, short, or series, the style was developed after the success of the *Clone Wars* animated character maquettes.

ASK LOBOT

CLOUD CITY'S COMPUTER LIASON OFFICER ANSWERS ALL YOUR STAR WARS QUERIES, AS RELATED TO LELAHOO Y CHEE



Is there any chance we'll ever see the deleted scene in Episode VI with Vader Force-choking Moff Jerjenod?

MARSHW from *StarWars.com*

The odds of ever seeing this and any other deleted scenes from the film of today's Star Wars movies are extremely slim.

Don't get us wrong, the film was already very significant in its original release, but the original trilogy has the Vader choking sequence as a single example of the kind of deleted scenes that could have been included with the original release. Considering the number of deleted sequences that were cut for the original film, it's unlikely any on the planet. Though this sequence was included in the novelization, this sequence of events never made the final cut of the film.

MASTER BLASTER!

One of the most highly desired prop replicas in the Star Wars universe is the Han Solo blaster. After years of waiting, collectors were able to order one from Master Replicas in late 2002 as one of the first items in their line of high quality prop replicas. This highly detailed metal blaster closely matches the hero prop used by Harrison Ford on screen and came in

an elegant display case.

The "Master Replicas Han Solo Blaster" came on the heels of the ill-fated "Icons Han Solo Blaster" that was widely promoted but never produced before the company went out of business. A limited number of these "Icons Han Solo Blasters" were created as prototypes and were displayed on a mesh-style plaque.



UNDERCOVER!

During the release of *Return of the Jedi*, the best dressed Han Solo fans were wearing "Han Solo Underoos!" They came in two forms: T-shirt with briefs and long underwear. Both are difficult to locate today as they were part of the more limited *Return of the Jedi* Underoos line, but the thermal set is even more challenging to track down than the briefs. Collectors look for these in sealed packaging, and the condition of the cardboard box can vary widely and influence price. If only Han Solo Underoos came in adult sizes today!

COLLECTING continues next page



ULTIMATE SOLO

The ultimate Han Solo collectible is Solo himself, preserved in carbonite in full 1:1 scale. Illusive Concepts released a limited series of 2500 fiberglass "Han Solo in Carbonite" statues that quickly sold out. No Star Wars statue gets more attention than Jabba's prize hanging on the wall in the living room. Illusive Concepts cast the original "Han in carbonite" prop from the films to produce this detailed replica. ▶

CORELLIAN CANDY

Han Solo toys have also taken on more unusual forms. For the *Revenge of the Sith* M&M's promotion Hasbro produced a small unposeable M&M figure as Han Solo and two different sized plush M&M Han Solo toys. These were part of a larger set of M&M's as Star Wars characters designed to promote the candy.

In addition to candy, Han Solo was also used to promote cereal. The most popular and widely publicized Star Wars cereal promotion from the 1990's was the mail away "Han stormtrooper" offered with boxes of Kellogg's Froot Loops cereal. When Kenner restarted the Star Wars action figure line in 1995, they offered this exclusive Han Solo action figure free with two proofs of purchase from Froot Loops. Thousands of collectors and fans

ate this colorful fruit-flavored cereal in order to get this version of Han for their action figure collection. Although the figure itself is common since this was a popular mail away at the time, cereal boxes depicting the offer with intact proofs of purchase are much more difficult to come by.

Humans were not the only species to enjoy Star Wars food products—Harper's Dog Chow issued a Star Wars promotion in Australia for *Return of the Jedi*. Bags of Dog Chow came with one of 12 different stickers from the movie, and the 8th sticker in the set was Han Solo shown in battle on Endor. For the Han Solo collector who must have everything, this sticker can be elusive with only a few known examples surfacing in the past 25 years.

What does the phrase "Bo Shuda" mean?



Bo Shuda

George Lucas coined the term "Bo Shuda" in the original *Star Wars* to describe



ASK A BOT

TOYS: MAKING GIANT PLANS!

GENTLE GIANT'S VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT AND DESIGN, DEV GILMORE, TALKS JEDI, JAR JAR AND WHY IT'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO BE A COLLECTOR !



Insider: What are the challenges involved in producing high quality *Star Wars* collectibles?

Dev Gilmore: Competition! There is a lot of really great, fun *Star Wars* product out there. Just look at what Hasbro has been doing—it's really fantastic! LEGO rocks! Kotobukiya too! The new Diamond Select articulated 1/4 scale figures are awesome! It's simply a great time to be a *Star Wars* collector. We know that the people who buy our work expect the best. It's my job to make sure that fans buying Gentle Giant products get exactly that.

How do the actors feel about having their heads scanned?

Usually we are scanning the actors for film production, not just for toy applications, so it's part of making a feature presentation. When you get to work with true professionals like Christopher Lee and Samuel L. Jackson, they make the job so much easier.

This page: (top) detailed head scans of Hayden Christensen; (main) the completed Anakin Skywalker bust.



TOYS (continues next page)

TOYS continues



Is it harder to create maquettes of the animated versions of the Star Wars characters?

With animated versions of the *Star Wars* characters, like our maquettes and the line of vinyl Kustomz, we are essentially coming up with new spins on old characters. There is a lot more flexibility in making these than a movie accurate droid or stormtrooper. Anyone in the toy business will tell you this: Droids are the hardest things to get perfect!

What is on the slate for Gentle Giant for the coming year?

We finally have the 1/2 scale helmets ready to go. These are both the old Riddell pieces and new designs. When the fans see these roll out, they won't be disappointed! More importantly, I'm really excited about some of the items that we are designating for charities. With the help of

fans and Gentle Giant collectors we have been able to raise money for a couple of really good causes. Most recently we have contributed funds to both cancer research and the Animal Humane Society in California.

Hasbro made the wonderful pink R2-KT not long ago. I really must commend them on that. Great work guys! You have to remember that it's the fans who purchase these items are the ones who make these things a success.



Which character from the saga would you most like to see given the Gentle Giant treatment?

Believe it or not, I'd love to see us make

Jar Jar Binks! I'm sure there are several readers who would cringe at the thought, but I think the piece would be a really good one, so don't judge me just yet! Other than that, 4-Lom, the last of our *Empire Strikes Back* Bounty Hunters. The silver Death Star Droid (RA-7) is another favorite. And we have barely scratched the surface on our 12" line of statues.

Will there be any more busts with sound chips?

Our holiday Max Rebo had sound, I really love that one. The Lieutenant Renz bust will be our first with actual dialogue [especially recorded by the actor, Jamie Holland]. It's an item that we produced in collaboration with Philip Wise and the guys at RebelScum.com.

It's up to the collectors to decide if they want to see more products with sound chips! Let us know!



The full-sized maquettes have proved extremely popular with collectors. What's coming up next with that particular line?

I really like our giant animated Princess Leia. Whatever it is, she just has it! We have a truly awesome Clone Wars trooper coming soon!

What do you see as being the next step for Gentle Giant?

We have so many new items on deck that I just want to gush about, but they will just have to remain a secret for now. I guess your readers will have to check the pages of upcoming issues of *Star Wars Insider* to discover what's coming up! ☺

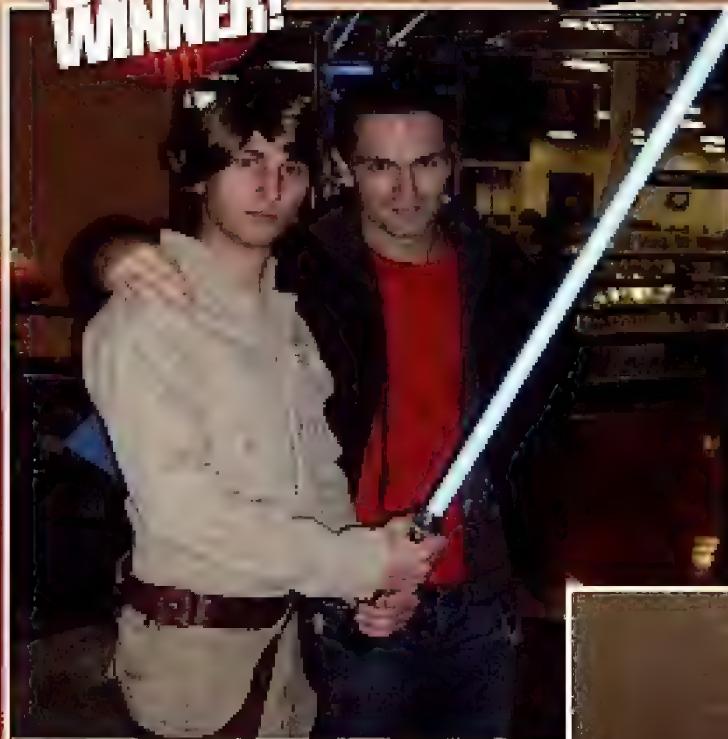
BOUNTY HUNTERS

MEET THE STARS, SHOW THE EVIDENCE,
WIN THE BOUNTY! INSIDER'S BOUNTY
HUNTER SECTION IS SPONSORED BY
KOTOBUKIYA. EACH WINNER WILL RECEIVE
A FANTASTIC KOTOBUKIYA STAR WARS
STATUE, WORTH AROUND \$100!

BOUNTY
WINNER!



STAR WARS
KOTOBUKIYA



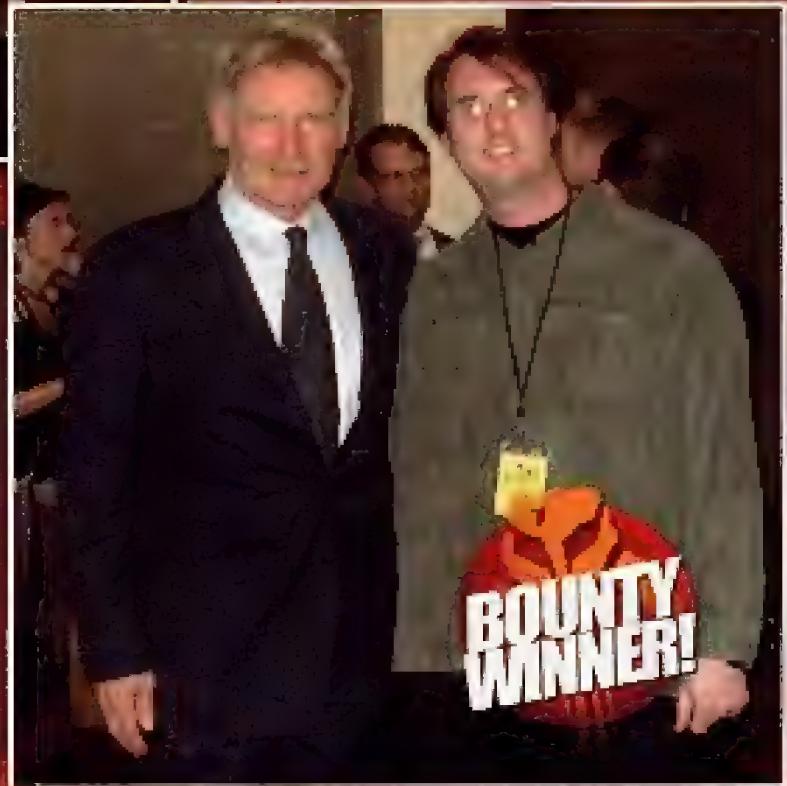
THE SECRET APPRENTICE UNLEASHED!

This was at The Force Unleashed launch party in San Francisco. I was dressed up as Luke and Sam Witwer was kind enough to appear in this cool picture with me. Add his name to the list of Star Wars actors that are accommodating to fans. Thomas Ray, by email

CAPTAIN FANTASTIC!

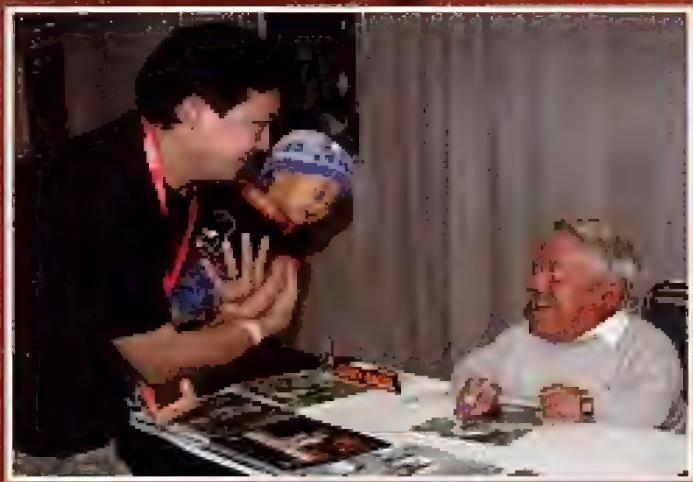
I had the opportunity to appear as a stormtrooper at the Jules Verne Adventure awards. After our part in the show, we were able to hang out and watch the show from backstage, where I saw Harrison Ford. Just before he left I was able to talk to him! He was very pleasant, and I got his autograph and this photo. I was so excited to be standing next to my hero—he even put his hand on my shoulder!

Cris Knight, Los Angeles, CA





WE ALSO HEARD FROM THE FOLLOWING BOUNTY HUNTERS:



BUDDIES WITH BAKER!

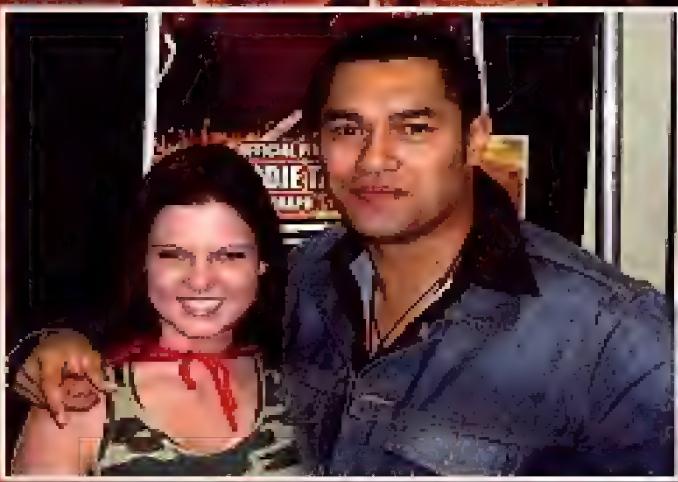
My son Zachary and I got the chance to meet Kenny Baker at Celebration IV in Los Angeles. I love the exchange of smiles between Zachary and Kenny in this photo. Hopefully, he will appreciate his first Star Wars celebrity encounter when he is older!

Eugene Shim, El Dorado Hills, CA

LAUGHING WITH LEIA!

Here I am with Carrie Fisher at the Writer's Guild in Hollywood. She wasn't posing for pictures because of time constraints, but I wasn't about to leave without getting a shot. My friend and I timed it so I would walk behind her, strike a pose, then keep moving. However, she turned around after the picture was taken! She thought it was funny and appreciated the fact that I didn't intend to bother her. Thanks again, Carrie!

Richard Woloski, Long Beach, CA



CHUMS WITH A CLONE!

I met Bodie Taylor at Celebration III. I was trying to sneak around some fans and take a picture of him. He saw me and waved me over and told me, "dressed like that, you don't need a ticket to come over here."

Summer Ramey, Clarksville, TN



CAN YOU GO ONE BETTER?

ARE YOU PALS WITH NATALIE PORTMAN? HAVE YOU CHILLED OUT WITH BILLY DEE WILLIAMS? MAYBE YOU KNOW LIAM NEESON? WE WANT TO SEE YOUR PHOTOS!

OL
37

BANTHA TRACKS

BY THE FANS,
FOR THE FANS.

BEST OF THE YEAR

The year 2008 proved once again that even though the *Star Wars* saga has been around for more than 30 years, its future promises to be just as enduring.

In 2005 we all believed that we'd seen the last *Star Wars* movie to be released in theaters, but we were thrilled to be wrong when the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* animated feature premiered in August. Fans lined up and took their kids, but *Bantha Tracks* noticed something a little different about this release. Kids whose parents were not in the *Star Wars* fan community insisted their parents take them to see Anakin, Ahsoka, Yoda, and Obi-Wan in action, and a new generation of young fans was introduced to the worldwide fad.

The 30th anniversary commemoration that started with *Celebration IV* and *Celebration Europe* in 2007, continued with *Star Wars Celebration Japan* in 2008. In addition to the really big events, like the debut of *The Clone Wars* TV series, the movie release, *Celebration Japan*, the premiere of the *The Force Unleashed* game from LucasArts, and the *Star Wars* events at San Diego Comic-Con International, there were brilliant fan moments taking place all year round at fairs and local conventions, at job sites, and in fans' living rooms, backyards, and home workshops.

Bantha Tracks highlights another year of fan fun, generosity, and joy in this 2008 Best of the Year edition.

BANTHA TRACKS SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Any original art, envelope art, comic book artwork, news, stories, moving images, or any materials voluntarily submitted become the property of *Bantha Tracks*. No compensation will be given for voluntary submissions, and there is no guarantee of publication. Submissions will not be returned. Each submission must include the creator's name, age, contact

information, date the work was created, and a statement that the work is original, created by the person submitting it, and that the person is a member of the official *Star Wars* Fan Club. Send electronic files to banthatracks.com, or send your snail mail to *Bantha Tracks*, c/o Mary Franklin, P.O. Box 29401, San Francisco, CA 94129.

RIGHT: IT'S never too early to start thinking dark side. A very young Darth, Ana Sato, checks out the flavor of his lightsaber at *Star Wars Celebration Japan*.
Photo by Ayako Kurihara.

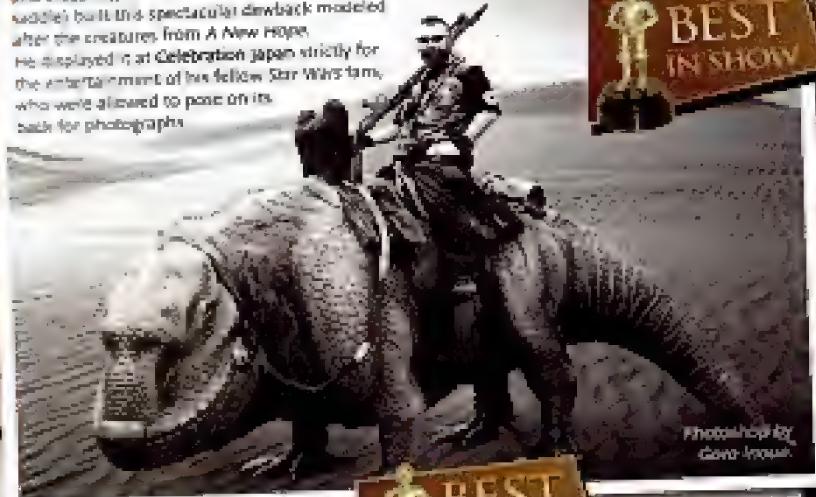


BELOW RIGHT: What vegetable-hating kid of any age could resist eating their greens and roots when they look like Yoda! Otsugyu Kado of the Rebel Legion, Japan, created this mini-masterpiece with traditional Japanese vegetable carving techniques. Here's to your health, Kado-san!



GET IN TRACKS!

BELOW: Demonstrating both extreme generosity and creativity, Goro Inou (pictured in the saddle) built this spectacular diorama modeled after the creatures from *A New Hope*. He displayed it at Celebration Japan strictly for the entertainment of his fellow Star Wars fans, who were allowed to pose on its back for photographs.



BELOW: Artist Patrick Summerville created this original piece entitled "The Interrogation" using oil on canvas.



LEFT: If you have an Imperial-sized cat, you'll be needing an Imperial-sized cat perch! Charles Bowman (left) and Richard Bishop of the Great Lakes Garrison of the 501st Legion pose with the CAT-CAT that Bowman built for the two cats who live with Bishop and his wife Lisa (Bowman's daughter).

"It was scratch-built entirely out of wood, hollowed on the inside so the cats could hide, and loaded with details, both on the body and the head," writes Bowman. "It looks like it just walked off the movie set. The cats can lie on the top of the body or sit on the head without it tipping. The feet are solid wood and heavy and the legs are fully adjustable, so any walking position can be duplicated just like a model from the movie."

LEFT: If you presented a panel in the Collecting Track at Celebration Japan, program director Gis Loper had an awesome surprise thank-you gift for you. Designed by Mattias Rendahl based on the medallion design that he and Jeff Cornell created for the show, this bottle cap set is extremely rare and very, very cool. Fans who attended the panels received a super gift top: one of the full-sized medallions for each session. The designs were modeled after vintage Japanese Star Wars toys. Photo by Edsel Man.

BELOW: It's fun to have your friends come over to play with lightsabers in your yard. It's really fun to watch the first episode of *The Clone Wars* animated television series with your friends. But to have all this plus clone troopers at your party? You have the best party ever! David "Gator" Gates (blue) and Steve "Harp" Mitchell (yellow) surprised the kids at a *Clone Wars* party in Michigan. Photo by Jon Leopold, Great Lakes Garrison Commanding Officer.

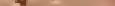
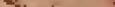


LEFT: Katie McGrew from Illinois wanted the piñata she was assigned to make for her Spanish class to reflect what she really liked, so she chose R2-D2.

"The piñata was very difficult to make, because I had to make it all by hand," writes Katie. "I had lots of fun creating this droid, and really hope you enjoy the picture!"



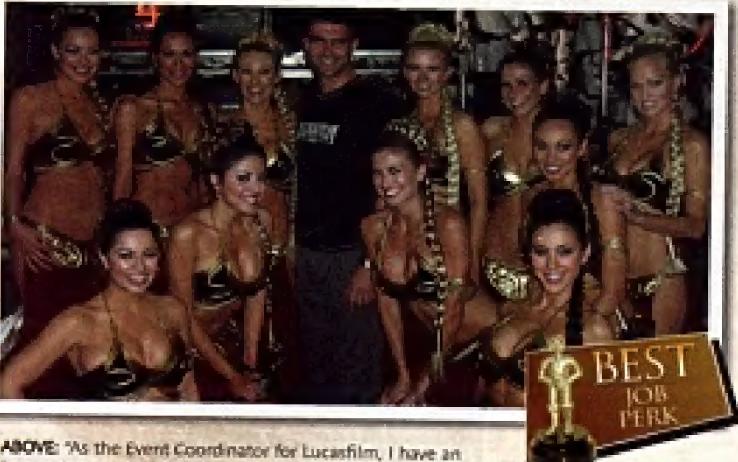
ABOVE: Ready to charm the crowds at the Celebration Japan costume contest are Mile and Maho Kawakami. Photo by Ayako Kotake.



BANTHA TRACKS: BY THE FANS FOR THE FANS



ABOVE: Sure the Emmys and the Grammys and the "Academy" have big stars on their red carpets, but do they have a clone army? The charity premiere for *The Clone Wars* at Hollywood's Egyptian Theater has our vote for the best red carpet ever, lined with alert and ready clones from the Southern California Garrison of the 501st Legion.



ABOVE: "As the Event Coordinator for Lucasfilm, I have an interesting job in a company full of interesting and exciting jobs," writes David Isra. "Each day is new and different and I often wonder how I can top my latest experience. Well let me just say that this picture answers that question." Photo from the set of the television show, "Deal or No Deal."

RIGHT: Consetta Parker and Garret Jones threw a beautifully Star Wars-themed wedding, with the saga apparent down to the last detail. The cake, created by Diane Rinaldi of Bewitching Elegance, was in the shape of a huge, hovering Star Destroyer. Yes, a Star Destroyer. That's a most impressive cake!



LEFT: Richard Woloski of Long Beach, California, wanted to do something exceptional when he proposed to his girlfriend, Sarah.

"Being a showman by trade, I had to make this a production," writes Woloski. He proposed in the Japanese Gardens in Long Beach, but when it came time to present the ring, before he got her answer, he searched his pockets — but no ring.

"Who has always been there to help our heroes in their time of need? R2-D2!" says Woloski. "The plucky little Astromech droid came rolling down the walkway to much cheering. He then extended his blue compartment hand and presented the ring. I slipped it onto her finger and Sarah said yes!"

Woloski conveys special thanks to the members of the R2-D2 Builder's Club, and to the man behind R2 that day, Victor Franco.



BANTHA TRACKS
GET IN TRACKS!

BANTHA TRACKS

EDITORIAL

BY MARY FRANKLIN

Given there are so many great pictures for this Best of the Year Bantha Tracks, space is tight for my editorial. I could not let 2008 get away, however, without sharing a few personal Best of the Year moments.

HARD-WORKING FANS

When we released *The Clone Wars* in theaters in August, and again when it premiered on TV in October, there were *Clone Wars* events everywhere that required not only costumed fans, but costumed clones. There were not many clone costumes at the start of the year, but thanks to dedicated, creative, and talented fans there were many more by the end of the year. The Southern California Garrison, as one example, threw a number of armor building parties with the express purpose of getting more clones ready in time for the theatrical premiere in August. Fans worked long days and nights to make some truly wonderful costumes.



Photo by Chris Knight

CREATIVITY

Star Wars fans worked extremely hard to make *Celebration Japan* memorable and special for all who came, whether fans from Japan or from elsewhere in the world. Their creativity and dedication, from the fan booths, entertainment, and



fan-built displays and photo opportunities, to the new helmets created by Japanese artists for the Vader Project exhibit, set the show apart.

CONTINUED CHARITIES

Television and movie premieres, and big events like *Celebration Japan* grab the headlines, but the most endearing — and enduring — characteristic to me about Star Wars fandom is the good deeds that go on in home communities. Just one of hundreds and hundreds of examples from 2008 is that of the "Imperial Walkers," who raised a significant donation in the McLean County Relay for Life.



Photo submitted by Kathy Vah Beuning

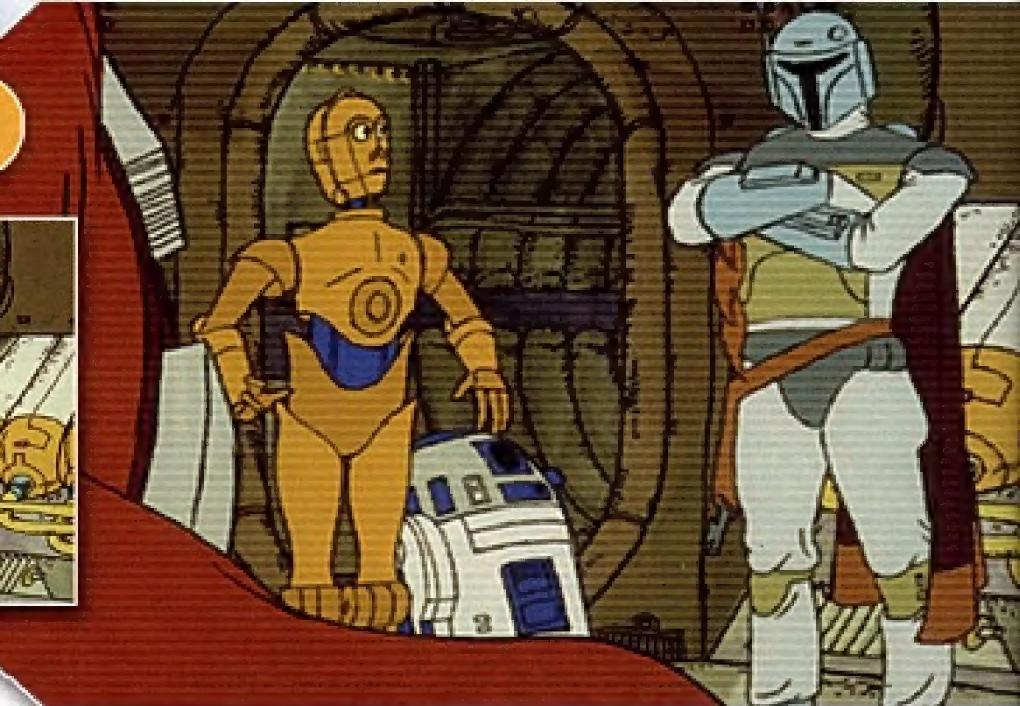
Get in Tracks!
Mary Franklin
Editor, Bantha Tracks



CLASSIC MOMENT

WORDS: BRIAN J. ROBB

EXPANDED UNIVERSE STAR WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL [1978]



WHAT THEY SAID

George Lucas

"The special from 1978 really didn't have much to do with us, you know. We kind of let them do it. It was done by variety [show] guys. We let them use the characters, and that probably wasn't the smartest thing to do, but you learn from those experiences." *StarWars.com*, September 16, 2005

Jeremy Bulloch

"I saw the cartoon that Boba Fett appeared in that was part of the [TV] show. It was nice to see the character."

Star Wars Insider #29, March 2008

Pete Vilmur

"I hate The Star Wars Holiday Special. So why collect items associated with it? I've pondered this question ever since I picked up my first item, an old TV weekly advertising the event on its cover. My conclusion? It's not too far removed from the kid who stashes pictures of leggy blondes from the Sears catalog in the recesses of his sock drawer—we're not supposed to collect these things but yet we're somehow drawn to them. Why? Because George [Lucas] would disapprove. I collect this stuff because the show was so bad. It's a bittersweet source of guilty pleasure."

Reader of the Outer Rim, August 2001

BOBA FETT ENCOUNTER

STAR WARS HOLIDAY SPECIAL 1978 [SCRIPT]

Pursuing the Millennium Falcon and in search of a mysterious talisman, Luke faces a threatening creature. The creature is hit by a ray that makes it dive into the ocean. The ray came has come from a forked rifle held by Boba Fett. He is seated in a saddle on another of the creatures.

THREEPIO: What is it, master Luke?

LUKE: I'm not sure. [To Boba] You saved my life. Thank you.

BOBA FETT: You are alone?

LUKE: I have two droids. We've come in search of a ship that crashed near here.

BOBA FETT: Maybe I can help you. I am Boba Fett. The ship you seek is nearby.

LUKE: Are the Imperial troops near this planet?

BOBA FETT: They are here, friend and growing more powerful.

LUKE: How far away?

The creature that Boba is riding licks what remains of Luke's Y-wing. Boba smacks the creature with his rifle.

BOBA FETT: [To creature] Settle down. [To Luke] All they do is eat.

DID YOU KNOW..?

Besides the Holiday Special, Boba Fett also "debuted" on June 19, 1980, in "The Frozen World of Ota," a story in the syndicated newspaper strip that was eventually reprinted in *Classic Star Wars: The Early Adventures* #9. Oddly enough, both the cartoon and the comic strip feature Luke Skywalker meeting Boba Fett for the "first" time, and both times Luke ends up befriending the bounty hunter.

Luke pulls out a ration pack.

LUKE: This is all we have but uh, he's welcome to it.

The creature wraps its tongue around the pack and pulls it out of Luke's hands and into its mouth. It chews it and then swallows.

BOBA FETT: You are foolish to waste your kindness on this dumb creature. No lower life form is worth going hungry for, friend. I take it you have no love of the Empire.

LUKE: I don't.

BOBA FETT: Well, neither do I. It will be easy to find the ship you seek. Follow me, friend. He hits his mount with his rifle and the creature begins to move.

WHY IT'S A CLASSIC

Many fans who took to Boba Fett in *The Empire Strikes Back* probably didn't recall his debut in the little-seen *Star Wars Holiday Special*, broadcast only once on TV. Fett is as cool in animation as he would prove to be in live action: he quickly saves Luke and offers help, but later events make it clear he is not to be trusted—as he's working for Darth Vader! Only R2-D2 and Chewbacca suspect things aren't right. Not available on video or DVD, this scene is an intriguing introduction for a popular villain!

NEXT TIME: THE DEATH OF MARA JADE

A large, high-contrast close-up of the golden droid C-3PO's head and hand. His head is on the left, showing his two glowing orange eyes and metallic features. His hand, with its articulated fingers and gold-colored mechanical components, is on the right, holding a small, dark rectangular object. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and shadows on the metallic surfaces.

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DROID STORY!

From *A New Hope* to *The Clone Wars*, Anthony Daniels discusses over 30 years of C-3PO!

CLONE CONVERSATIONS

The cast and crew of the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* reflect on the making of the hit show!

STAR SOUNDS

Clone Wars composer Kevin Kiner on scoring an all new *Star Wars* sound!

GO FIGURE!

We chart the epic journey of a *Star Wars* action figure!

BOUNTY BATTLE

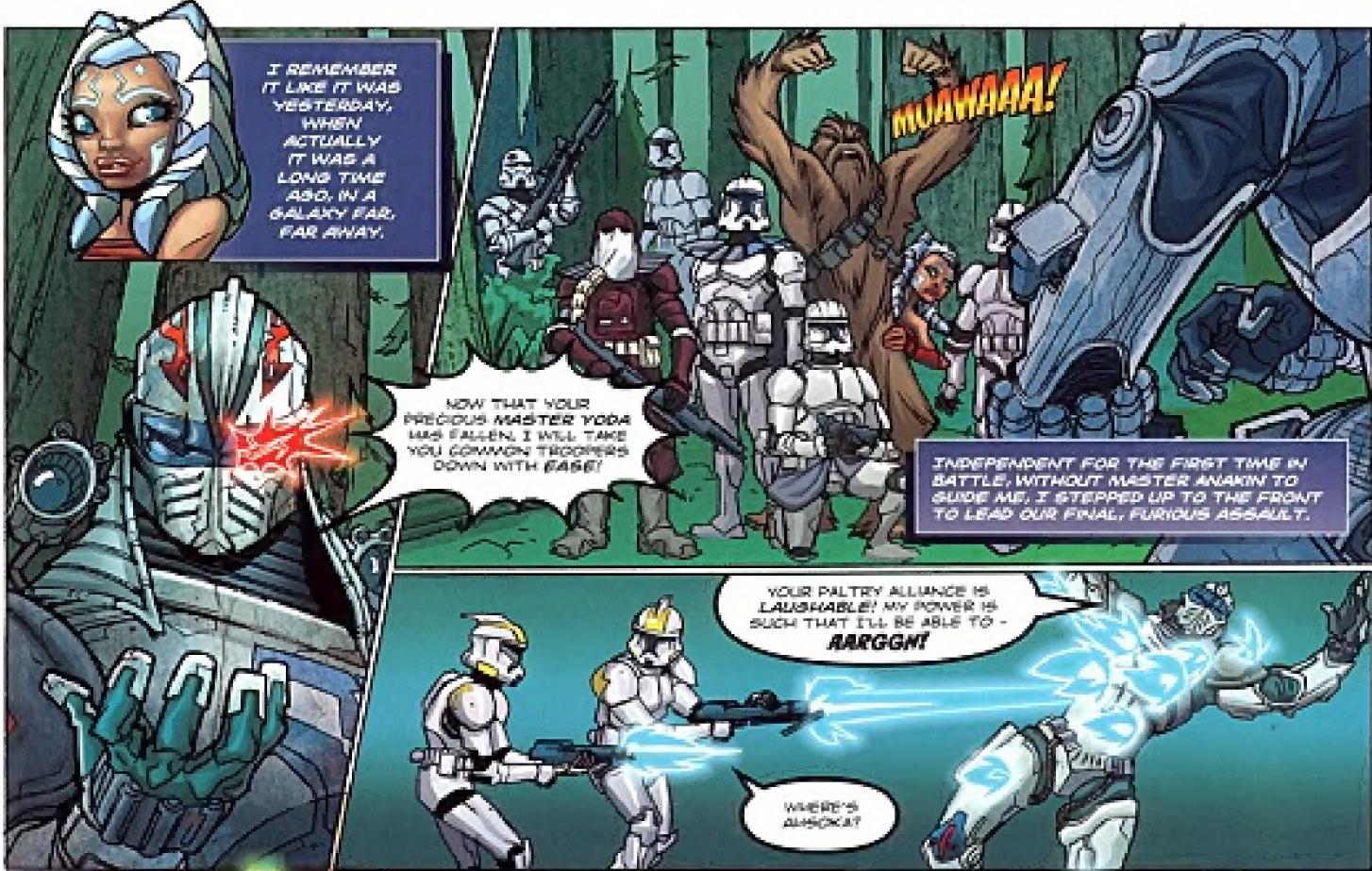
Zam Wesell takes on Aurra Sing!

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